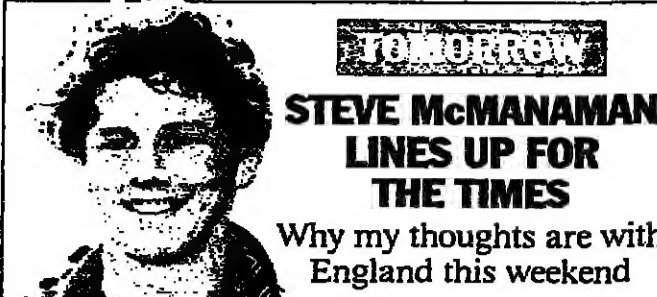


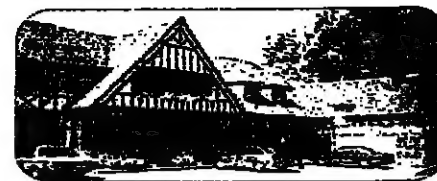
MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA
SUPPLEMENT
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AMERICA BELIEVES IN YESTERDAY
Oasis strike a sixties chord, PAGE 18



TOMORROW
STEVE McMANAMAN LINES UP FOR THE TIMES

Why my thoughts are with England this weekend



WIN A WEEKEND FOR TWO WITH RELAX & CHATEAUX

Be ready for protests, governors told

Judges back Howard over jail release

By PETER FOSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

PRISON governors were warned last night to prepare for protest demonstrations by angry inmates after two High Court judges ruled that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was correct in his decision to stop the early release of prisoners last week.

In an important test case, the judges threw out an application by a convicted burglar for a judicial review of his sentence. One of the judges described instructions to governors to take into account time spent on remand in custody for every consecutive sentence as an "absurdity".

The Home Secretary said that any further releases would remain suspended until the full judgment is published next week, and the Home Office made clear that all the 537 released inmates who had been serving sentences of 12 months or more had been let out on licence.

"This means that their behaviour must be good, and if it is not they may be recalled to prison," a spokeswoman said.

The dismissal of the case, which was widely welcomed by both Tory and Labour MPs, will come as a relief to the Government which was facing estimated compensation claims of between £500 million and £750 million from prisoners who thought they should have been released earlier. Mr Howard said he was delighted at the ruling from Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Patten, although he would await the full judgment next week before taking further action.

John Naughton, 32, who failed in his legal challenge yesterday, is serving three years at Lindholme Prison near Doncaster for burglary and possession of cannabis. His lawyers argued that under guidelines sent to governors he was due for release on December 24 last year.

Mr Justice Patten said that under the guidelines, a man who has spent a year on remand in prison and was sentenced to a year in jail for ten offences consecutively would be released immediately, whereas his accomplice who was given bail would face ten years in jail.

"It appears it is an absurdity



Dickinson: disappointed with outcome of case

conduct an inquiry into how the debate over the early releases came about, but Mr Howard has made clear that his position is not in question. After the case John Dickinson, Naughton's solicitor, said "I don't know what the reasons behind the decision are — we won't know until next week. You're never very pleased when you lose so I suppose you can say that I'm disappointed."

Terry Dicks, Tory MP for Hayes and Harlington, said the High Court decision vindicated his own view. Mr Dicks said he would now like Mr Howard to return to prison all those former inmates freed early before he stepped in to halt the releases.

"If the income tax man makes a mistake with your or my income tax one year and we pay too little, he comes back the next year and says 'although it was my mistake, you must pay the difference!'"

Dame Jill Knight, MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, did not call for the prisoners already freed to be returned to jail, but commented: "We must hope and pray that no-one suffers because of their release."

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, gave a warning that tensions in prisons would increase if the decision was not overturned on appeal. Prisoners would feel especially frustrated because more than 500 fellow prisoners in the same position were released before the Home Secretary's intervention, he said.

"It would have been far better to seek a speedy court ruling before rather than after the release process began. Paul Hewes from the Prison Officers Association and also secretary at Moorland Prison in South Yorkshire, also gave a warning that there would be trouble from prisoners. There had been a sit-down protest on the exercise yard when Mr Howard originally halted the releases last week, he said.

"With today's ruling we expect there will be a bigger backlash because there is now no avenue left for them to take. They've tried a court challenge and they've failed," he told BBC Radio 4's PM programme.

The judges said they would give the reasons for their decision next week. Mr Weatherby said that after the hearing he would consider an appeal to the House of Lords. Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, is to



Mr Blair gets a hug from Liz Dawn, who plays Vera Duckworth, at the studio

Blair takes to The Street

By KATE ALDERSON

TONY BLAIR yesterday became the first Opposition leader to breach the portals of the Rovers Return when he was accorded the rare honour of a visit to Coronation Street to meet the cast and walk along its famous cobbles.

He said it had been "marvellous" to visit one of the most famous streets in Britain and "fantastic" to go into the Rovers Return. The Labour leader was greeted with applause by the cast, who had broken off from filming, as he walked on to the inner set of the Rovers Return in the heart of the Granada Television Studios in Manchester.

Baroness Thatcher and Norma Major, the Prime Minister's wife, are the only other figures from the world of politics to have visited Coronation Street for the full "behind-the-scenes" tour of television's most popular programme.

Other famous visitors have included the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, Alfred Hitchcock and Dustin Hoffman. Virginia Bottomley headed North for the Granada

Studios soon after being made Heritage Secretary and Lord Archer was shown round in the early 1990s.

Mr Blair, whose visit lasted an hour, had a private chat with cast members before walking along the cobbles of Coronation Street. He was accompanied by the programme's most popular characters, Sarah Lancashire who plays Rachel Watts, Liz Dawn who plays Vera Duckworth, the landlady of the Rovers Return, and Bill Tarmy who plays Jack, her husband.

Mr Blair has a family link with the show. His father-in-law, Tony Booth, the actor, married Pat Phoenix, an icon of Coronation Street, shortly before her death.

Critics warned, page 2
Joe Joseph, page 16
David Goodhard, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Israel alert

Israeli police and troops were placed on high alert after Yasser Arafat called on Palestinians to defy military closure of the West Bank and join a mass pilgrimage to pray in Jerusalem. Page 13

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Huge areas of England are battered by gales and rain

By TIM JONES AND NICK NUTTALL

GALE-FORCE winds, mountainous seas and torrential rain brought chaos to a huge area of southern and eastern England yesterday. Four lifeboat crews and an RAF rescue helicopter braved ferocious conditions to rescue sailors being battered by 30ft waves in the North Sea.

The huge seas, whipped up by 55mph winds and accompanied by sheeting rain, brought a severe weather warning for East Anglia, Essex, Kent and parts of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

On the north Norfolk coast, more than 4,000 campers were evacuated before dawn as waves threatened to breach sea defences. There were traffic accidents throughout the region as roads flooded. On

the cross Channel ferries, passengers faced long waits as sailings were cancelled or delayed.

Thirty miles off the Suffolk coast, two adults and four children were transferred to safety from their 35ft yacht Red House Luger after two lifeboats and a helicopter had responded to a mayday call. The yacht was towed into Harwich, Essex, after Bert Coleman, from the Lowestoft lifeboat, risked his life to board her to attach a tow.

Three of those rescued were picked up by the Aldeburgh lifeboat. An RAF rescue helicopter team from Wattisham, Suffolk, decided it was too dangerous to risk sending down a winchman and provided top cover until the

rescue was complete. Last night a local coastguard said the yacht, owned by the Little School at Buxton, near Norwich, which takes in disruptive children, should never have been at sea in the prevailing conditions.

Higher than average tides forecast for the east coast this weekend could provide the first test of new flood-warning systems being introduced by the Environment Agency. More than 14,000 people in high-risk areas are to get automatic warnings over the telephone as part of the new flood-alert measures. The high-tech warnings will give up to six hours notice of floods and their severity.

Forecast, page 24

Britain limbers up for new BSE conflict

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, MICHAEL HORNSBY AND CHARLES BREMNER

MINISTERS are preparing for a new conflict with Europe over "mad cow" disease in the wake of fresh evidence suggesting that it will die out naturally in Britain within five years.

The Government moved last night to head off a threatened Tory backbench revolt by suggesting that ministers will reopen negotiations with European partners over the planned cull of more than 120,000 cattle.

Angela Browning, a junior agriculture minister, said that there was an urgent need to examine the culling policy in the light of the new research suggesting that the proposed slaughter might not be necessary. The research suggests that the disease may be eradicated naturally by 2001.

Mrs Browning seized on the findings, which support claims by farmers that a widespread cull is unnecessary. She said: "The information this [research] paper provides today does mean we need to take stock quite urgently of the implications of this new evidence as far as the policy is concerned. It would be foolish to ignore it."

Her comments came as Tory backbenchers and farmers' leaders increased pressure on the Government to renegotiate the proposed cull that they claim is too widespread and will lead to the unnecessary deaths of thousands of

Continued on page 2, col 4
French protest, page 15

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Couple who kissed in glossy pages of *Hello!* say their goodbyes in court

Carlings divorce year after rumpus over calls to Diana

By Emma Wilkins

THE marriage of Will and Julia Carlings has ended in divorce, it emerged yesterday, just 24 hours after Diana, Princess of Wales became a single woman.

Mrs Carlings, a television presenter who continues to use her married name for work, blamed her husband's friendship with the Princess for their marriage problems. But Mr Carlings always insisted that their relationship was entirely innocent. The Princess, who was granted a decree absolute on Wednesday, was not named in the Carlings' divorce.

Under the terms of the settlement, Mrs Carlings received their £220,000 home in Putney, southwest London, which has now been sold. Her ex-husband, the former England rugby captain who runs his own management training company, is renting a house in Kensington.

The marriage, which began in July 1994 with a glossy spread in the pages of *Hello!* magazine, ended in a divorce court in Guildford, Surrey, earlier this month. Mrs Carlings, 30, the daughter of a Northamptonshire accountant, brought the action, claiming that the marriage had



A wedding day kiss at Castle Ashby in 1994

irretrievably broken down. "A financial agreement has been reached and the marriage is now over. It's all been quite amicable," said Hugh Young, Mr Carlings's solicitor.

The decree absolute has been issued and Julia has sold the house in Putney. It was a short marriage which sadly did not work, but they are both happy with the settlement," he added.

Mrs Carlings recently appeared on Channel 4's *Big Breakfast* dressed in surgical clothes to mimic the Princess, who was filmed watching an operation at Harefield Hospital, west London. Mrs Carlings copied the Princess's heavy eye make-up and blonde hair

peeped from under her green surgical cap.

The Press Complaints Commission ruled in January that Mrs Carlings had forfeited her right to privacy over the breakup of her marriage when she willingly co-operated with the media in a series of interviews.

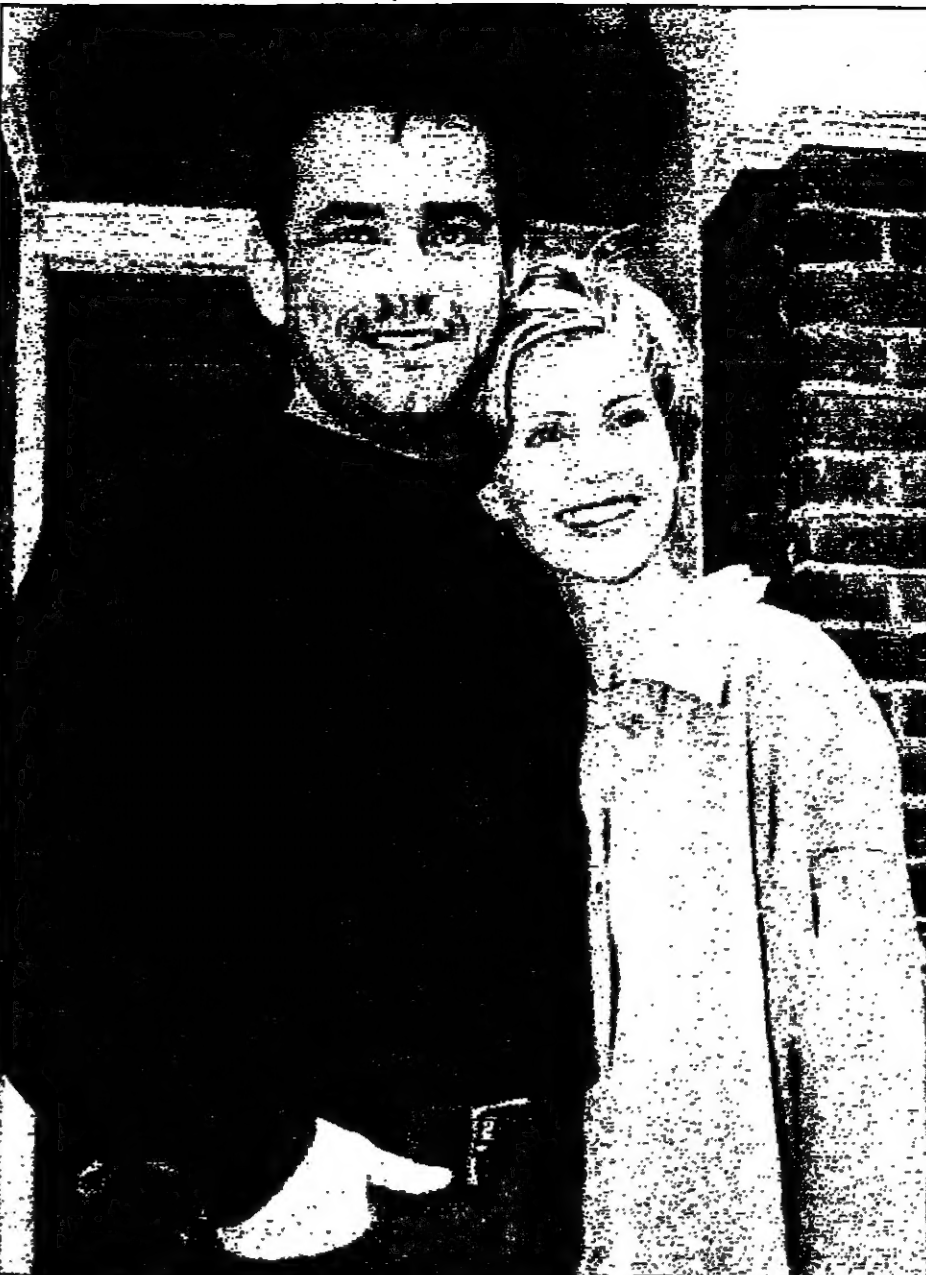
Mrs Carlings has found a new romance with Rob Stinger, who runs Epic Records and is known in the record industry as a high flier. She is the host of Carlton TV's *Capital Woman*.

Mr Carlings is now said to be enjoying a romance with Ali, the sister of footballer Garry Lineker's wife, Michelle. He is no longer in close touch with the Princess and runs motivational management courses from Chelsea, west London.

Last August a "friend" of the Carlings told a tabloid newspaper how Mrs Carlings had confronted her husband over telephone bills showing calls to the Princess's private line. Her husband, it was said, had broken down and confessed.

The couple presented a united front and Mrs Carlings told reporters: "Diana picked the wrong couple to do it with this time because we can only get stronger."

Diary, page 18



The couple put on a united front last year after newspaper reports linked Carlings to the Princess. Julia Carlings said at the time that they would only get stronger

Norfolk police check files on child sex crimes

By Joanna Bale

POLICE searching for Jodi and Tom Loughlin, who disappeared from a Norfolk beach, are to interview known child sex offenders.

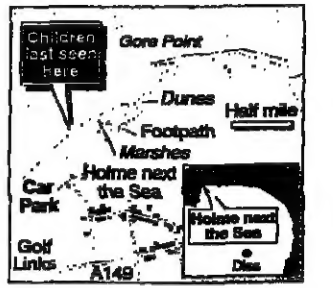
Fears are growing that the children might have been abducted as it emerged yesterday that an 11-year-old girl narrowly escaped being snatched by a man in a white van near the Norfolk village of Diss, about 60 miles away, on Monday. Although detectives say they have no reason to link the two incidents, they have yet to trace two unknown couples who were seen approaching other youngsters near the spot where Jodi and Tom disappeared 12 days ago.

For six days, officers had understood that the family had been near golf links at Holme near the Sea when the excited children rushed off, on August 18. It was not until last Friday that Mr Loughlin was calm enough to pinpoint that they had been half a mile away, close to Gore Point.

Police are logging information, by computer, and cross-referencing it to details of known sex offenders who could be relevant to the Hunstanton inquiry. Sergeant Peter Thompson, of Norfolk Police, said yesterday: "We have had a HOLMES computer installed two days ago; it stands for Home Office Large and Major Enquiry System. It will assist in cross-referencing, not only with other missing-person inquiries but also

with any intelligence that may be relevant concerning previous offenders — not only in this force but other forces across the country."

Police had received 1,000 calls from the public offering possible leads. Sgt Thompson said: "We have said right from day one that there are three options as to what may have happened to Jodi and Tom — foul play, lost on land, or swept out to sea. We are doing all we can to investigate all those eventualities most thor-



oughly." PC Mel Lacey added that files on abduction attempts and child sex offenders were being consulted. He said: "We are checking the files of incidents in the area that may be relevant."

Tom and Jodi's parents were being questioned yesterday by police officers using a method called cognitive questioning, in which the two are questioned separately, going over minute details of the day in question.

Teenagers burn down old school over three nights

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

TEENAGE arsonists burnt down a comprehensive school in a series of attacks over three nights before it could be converted into a health centre for their run-down estate. Stone-throwing groups confronted security guards and fire-fighters as the former Merrywood Girls' School on the Knowle West estate in Bristol was destroyed.

Firemen were called to the school seven times as the gangs ran riot over the Bank Holiday weekend. The art block was destroyed on Friday, followed by several classrooms over the weekend, and early on Wednesday more than 30 firemen fought a losing battle as the gymnasium went up in flames. As fire crews cleaned up, council officials and community leaders condemned "mindless jobs" who wreaked havoc during the summer holiday.

Residents of estate spoke yesterday of their anger and frustration at gangs of bored teenagers who ruled the area through fear. Many residents were frightened to venture out after dark, claiming the gangs were beyond the reach of their parents, police and social workers.

One resident, who did not want to be named for fear of reprisals, said: "The youngsters are out of control and their parents don't care. We have got 12-year-old children nicking cars. The police chase them and catch them, then drag them off to the police

station, but all they do is tell them off and then let them go again. The kids then come down here and start fires to get back at the police and the security guards."

Station Officer Geoff Cater of Avon Fire Brigade said: "Seven fires in three or four days is unbelievable. We have had 100 or more fire-fighters working on blazes here since Friday. Actions like these put their lives at risk."

The building, now a smouldering ruin, closed last summer when the school merged with a nearby boys' school. Security guards were employed to watch the two-storey building after a series of break-ins, pending its redevelopment as a health centre. Structural engineers will assess how much of the redbrick site can be salvaged. However, the council intends to press ahead with its plan for a health centre.

A spokesman for Avon and Somerset police said that all cities had problems with young people during the school holidays and added: "We would urge parents to try and be aware of where their children are, especially late at night."

Local authorities estimate that arson and burglary in schools now cost more than £300 million a year, with one school in eight suffering damage each year. This summer alone, more than £3 million of damage has been caused in 20 schools in Northern Ireland.

Matron is accused of terrorising boarders

A MATRON at a private boarding school whose former charges include Tim Henman, the tennis player, terrorised the pupils, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Mary Denness even refused to help a badly injured pupil in need of urgent medical attention, it was claimed. The Croydon tribunal was told that Mrs Denness, 59, was eventually sacked by Reed's School, a charitable foundation at Cobham, Surrey.

A housemaster at the school, Paul Kemp, said that Mrs Denness taunted one boy about not having a girlfriend. During cross-examination he told Mrs Denness: "There were numerous occasions when pupils complained of your aggressive behaviour."

Mr Kemp said that the matron interrupted him while he was remonstrating with a pupil because his bed was untidy. He said: "She came in, stripped his bed and threw it all on the floor."

The music teacher at the school, Graham Herman, said Mrs Denness had refused to help a sixth-former when his head was bleeding. He said she was "quite irrational" and he often heard her "read the riot act".

Mrs Denness, from Goxhill, south Humberside, is claiming she was hounded out of her job in a conspiracy because of her sex. The two-day hearing continues today.

Nun whose sacking split teachers wins her case

By John O'Leary

A NUN who lost her job as a primary school head teacher after a dispute with her chairman of governors, the local parish priest, won her case for unfair dismissal yesterday.

Sister Clotilde Stephens took the governors of St Bartholomew's Roman Catholic Primary School in Swanley, Kent, to an industrial tribunal after she was forced to resign a year ago. Her resignation split parents and staff into bitterly divided camps, the tribunal in Ashford was told. The dispute became so heated that police had to be called to one demonstration. Some parents campaigning to have Sister Clotilde reinstated claimed that they were threatened with IRA-style "knee-cappings".

The school's head teacher of 13 years returned from holiday last summer to find that the governing body, chaired by Father Seamus Hetherington, had met in secret to strip her of all financial responsibilities. Sister Clotilde said that the removal of financial control by



Sister Clotilde: stripped of financial control

governors in her absence made her job impossible. She said she had been given no inkling of the impending power struggle before her holiday. The changes at the 315-pupil grant-maintained school meant that she could not pay for minor repairs in the school or even textbooks.

Sister Clotilde offered her resignation in a hard-hitting

letter to Father Hetherington, but later asked to withdraw it. Father Hetherington refused and won the backing of governors to accept her resignation.

She broke down in tears as she told the tribunal of her letter to Father Hetherington. She had written to him that it would be impossible for her to carry out her role.

Father Hetherington said that the changes at the meeting were not final decisions. His counsel, Alan Green, argued that Sister Clotilde had over-reacted and had been an autocratic head teacher. He said that members of the management committee were worried that Sister Clotilde could sign cheques herself up to the value of £5,000 and were also concerned that £9,500 had been allocated for a new school playground without them being consulted.

Valerie Cooney, who chaired the tribunal, said it found that "a reasonable employer would have discussed the applicant's concerns with her objectively before constructively dismissing her."

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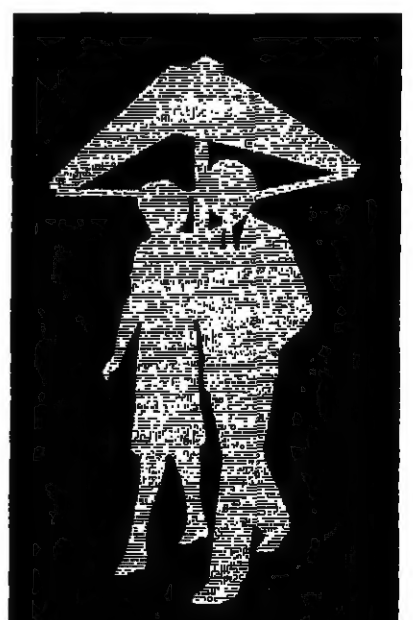
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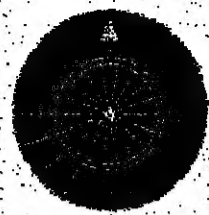


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Two Sudanese hostages apply for asylum in Britain as police get extension to hijackers' custody order

I'm no hero, I'm a lucky guy, says hijack plane pilot

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE pilot of the hijacked Sudan Airways jet, preparing to fly the freed Sudanese hostages home after their three-day ordeal, insisted yesterday that he was no hero.

At the same time it emerged that two of the Sudanese passengers had asked for asylum in Britain while being interviewed by police about the hijack. They were detached from the 169 other passengers from Flight SU450 and were being held separately after being handed over to immigration officials.

Captain Abdul Hamid Hidirbi, who had calmed passengers and their Iraqi captors before landing safely at Stansted airport on Monday, told a news conference yesterday: "I am not a hero... I am a lucky guy." The pilot, who had been debriefed by police over 40 hours, was appearing

with Detective Chief Inspector Winston Bernard, the principal negotiator with whom he had kept in radio contact.

Captain Hidirbi, 51, said: "I am just a normal pilot. We have been trained to remain calm and cool the situation to try to gain the trust of the hijackers. That is the game."

He said he had been alerted by crew members after a commotion in the cabin but would not comment on the takeover of the aircraft in which two stewardesses were matched, one from the cockpit. Nor would he speak about the seven Iraqi hijackers who took control of the aircraft, about 100 minutes into the flight, while the plane was in Egyptian airspace.

The hijackers were being interrogated by detectives at Harlow, Essex, after police received a custody extension

from magistrates. Six female relatives who had been on board were released without charge into the custody of immigration officers. The hijackers are seeking asylum after taking control of the flight from Khartoum to Amman while fleeing the Iraqi regime.

Captain Hidirbi, married with two daughters and three sons, said: "I ordered my crew and passengers to sit down, and that they did. As for the passengers, you can imagine what state they were in with all the shouting around them. 'I didn't have time to feel frightened for myself, I was only worried for the women and children, and I had plenty of sick people on board who were going to Jordan for medical treatment.'"

"You undergo stress and pressure at the time but I was not worried for myself until



Detective Chief Inspector Bernard, right, with Captain Hidirbi, of Sudan Airways, yesterday. The pilot had been very brave, Mr Bernard said

afterwards when it was all over." The captain, who joined Sudan Airways in 1969, said that he was looking forward to seeing his family in Khartoum and perhaps taking a holiday. Captain Hidirbi had never

flown into Stansted before and had had no charts. But he made a normal approach and landing. He praised the British authorities' handling of the incident as "perfection". The only surprise he had, he said,

upon making the Airbus 310 safe, was to discover that, like him, the police negotiator was black.

Mr Bernard, who was sitting beside the pilot, said: "I thought he did a marvellous job. He was obviously behaving in a very brave manner."

The Home Office said two Sudanese nationals had sought leave to enter the country: it was not envisaged that the application would be decided upon immediately. It is understood they are individuals who had taken the unexpected chance to settle here. Earlier yesterday, 29 Jordanians were taken to Heathrow for a flight home to Amman.

Ex-husband's tax debts will cost woman her home

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A GRANDMOTHER is to lose her home because her former husband, who walked out on her 16 years ago, owes £33,000 to the Inland Revenue.

Josephine McDonagh, 67, said she was angry that she would have to sell the house to pay for Frederick McDonagh's bankruptcy. Her lawyer described the Croydon County Court order to sell as unfair, but said Mrs McDonagh, a former pub licensee, had no case in law.

The problem arose because she made a will in 1978, six years after her first husband died and shortly after she married her Mr McDonagh. Wanting to make sure she left her half of the semi-detached house in Whitton, southwest London, to her youngest son from her first marriage, she and her second husband signed a trust deed splitting the home 50-50.

Mr McDonagh walked out in October 1980 after less than two years of marriage. But when he was made bankrupt in 1985, the trustees in bankruptcy wanted his share of the property to recover money for his creditors. Mrs McDonagh fought an eight-year legal battle resisting the claim, arguing that she paid the original £1,600 deposit on the £15,000 purchase price in 1978 and that she paid all but a few

of the mortgage payments. But the trustees insisted the house, worth £70,000, be sold to pay Mr McDonagh's debts of £33,899, of which £33,350 is owed to the Inland Revenue. Legal and professional fees and interest have nearly doubled the total.

Mrs McDonagh has no savings and lives on a pension of less than £70 a week. She has been told the house will be put up for sale in November and if it is not sold she must leave by March 1.

"I thought this trust deed was an ordinary will which would look after my son. I never realised I was signing half my house away," she said yesterday. "I wouldn't care if the debts were anything to do with me, but I have never owed anything in my life and I even paid off the £500 mortgage payments he owed."

Mrs McDonagh has no idea of the whereabouts of Mr McDonagh, 50, a self-employed builder. "I never gave the will a second thought until the brown letters dropped through the letterbox the day my son got married informing me there was a charge on the house," she said.

Her solicitor, Jeremy Williams, said: "The circumstances of this case are very unfair. Although her husband contributed nothing to the house he still had 50 per cent."

Nuts allergy may stem from mother



MEDICAL BRIEFING

AVOIDING the nuts on a bar counter is only part of the problem for the ever-growing number of people who are allergic to peanuts. They are also used in processed food, where they remain hidden and often unannounced. To those people who are so allergic to peanuts that they develop anaphylactic shock if they come into contact with them, one bite of a cake may be lethal.

This week the *British Medical Journal*, which has done a great deal to publicise the dangers, has two reports of research that determines the prevalence of peanut allergy in four-year-old children in the Isle of Wight.

Research workers at Southampton University found the increase in the number of children allergic to peanuts, the most common cause of death related to food allergy, is in

line with the increase in the incidence of other allergies over the past 20 years. The Southampton doctors suggest that the foundation of peanut allergy from childhood could originate during the mother's pregnancy if she ate peanuts at the time. The report also shows the increased chance that a brother or sister of someone with peanut allergy will develop the same problem.

The other BMJ report was of a study undertaken at the asthma and allergy research centre at Newport. The Isle of Wight team shows that by the age of four, one in 100 children on the island has an allergy to peanuts or other nuts.

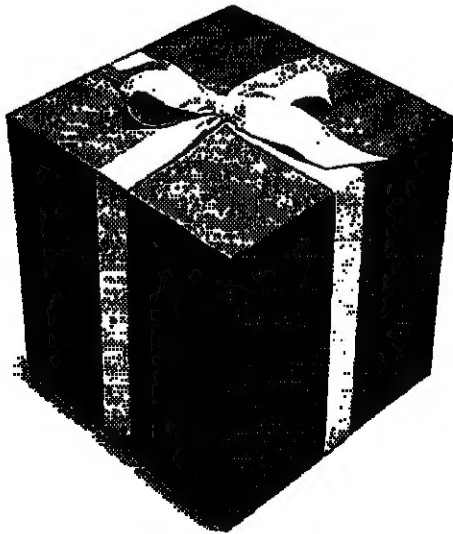
The allergy, once established, has a potential to remain as a life-threatening condition for the rest of the child's lifetime. The research demonstrated a clear association with a history of allergy in the family.

The BMJ reports recommend that children with a history of allergy, as well as those who have other members of their family with allergic diseases, should avoid peanuts altogether. It also recommended that food manufacturers should be more explicit in their labelling.

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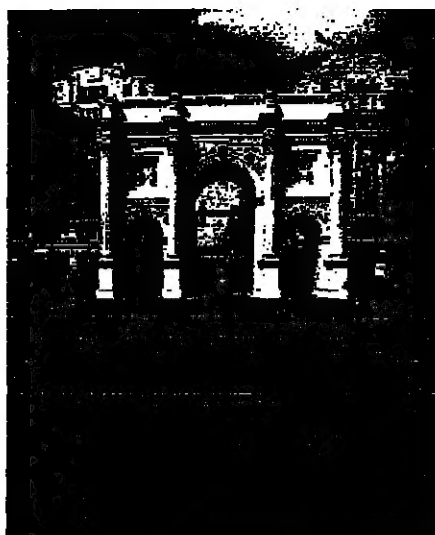


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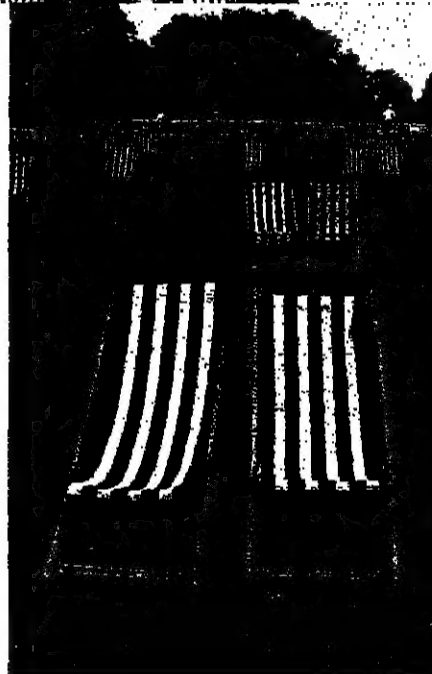
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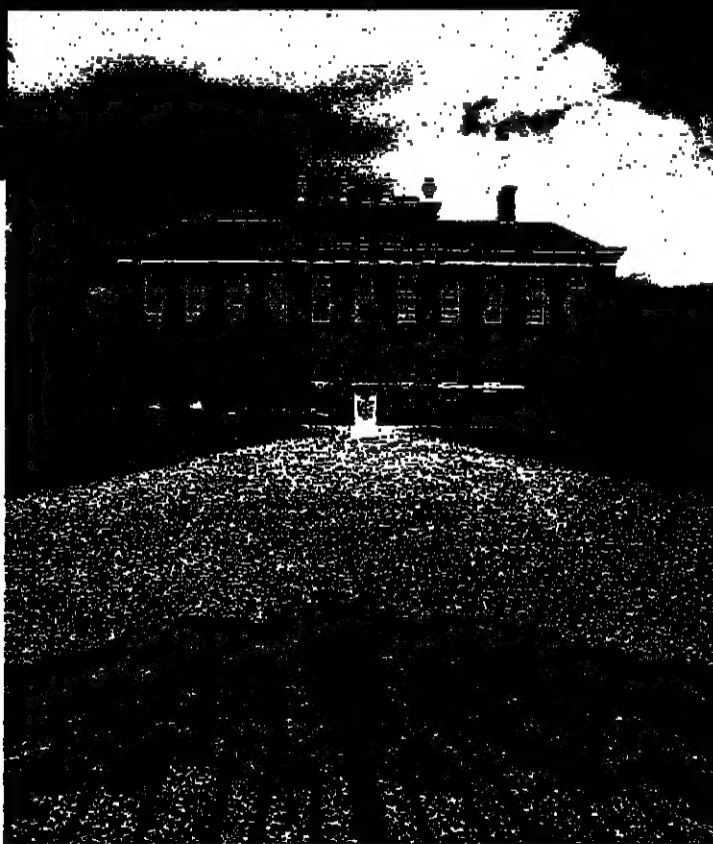


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THE TIMES
Fashion
Moore
images

Secret child at
records boasts

FUR

Harvey

Fashion and entertainment industry urged to remember United Nations code on children's rights

Moore condemns sex images of young girls

FROM DOMINIC KENNEDY
IN STOCKHOLM

ADVERTISERS and film-makers who used childlike girls in alluring roles were accused by Roger Moore yesterday of blurring the distinction between "sexually ready" and "way too young".

The former James Bond actor rounded on Calvin Klein and the fashion industry over waifs such as Kate Moss, in his role as Unicef goodwill ambassador at an international conference against child-sexual exploitation. Mr Moore said: "Whereas *Lolita* the film caused a storm in the 1960s, the many Lolitas of advertising and entertainment today hardly raise a murmur."

The creators of these images will argue that this is "art". But surely we cannot accept that the dignity, childhood, even lives of thousands of children might be sacrificed for the sake of art without responsibility.

Mr Moore drew attention to the United Nations convention on the rights of the child as a "code of ethics we are all committed to". He added: "The question is, of course, how do we integrate this code into our daily lives, whether we are scriptwriters, film-makers, authors, musicians, actors or members of the viewing public?"

Mr Moore chose ambiguous media images of children



Calvin Klein jeans model: campaign was halted

as his main theme at the congress. June Kane, Unicef's media co-ordinator who assisted him with his research, said Mr Moore had been angered by an article reporting that a new version of *Lolita* had been made starring Jeremy Irons and a 14-year-old Californian unknown, Dominique Swain.

"He is upset about the woman-child type of model used by Calvin Klein," said Ms Kane. "Somebody like Kate Moss with no breasts could be 14 or 50. Once you create the demand, you have to find women who look like children." Mr Moore was angry about a girl of 12 being signed up by an adult advertising agency in Britain and was critical of the use of the word "Lolita" by tabloid newspapers describing sexually attractive young women.

Calvin Klein's jeans advertisement sent shock waves through the advertising world and President Clinton is said to have intervened personally to have it withdrawn. There has also been concern expressed at the conference over *Hélène et les Garçons*, an afternoon programme on French television appealing to schoolchildren, which includes teenagers making jokes about being pregnant.

With only four European countries, including Britain, banning child nudity in advertisements, delegates were warned that the two-year-old bottom that sells toilet paper could also send a distorted message to paedophiles.

A paper presented by Aidan White, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists, who shared a press conference with Mr

Moore, cited Gianne Albertoni Vicente, a 13-year-old model. "In fashion, it is the 'woman-child' who now rules the catwalk," said the report *Prime Time for Children*. Larry Clark's film *Kids*, with young actors portraying sexual encounters, had "raised worrying questions".

"The crucial question is whether adults themselves are encouraging children to become prematurely sexually active, or to seem to be so," said the paper.

In Britain, the Advertising Standards Authority said it had upheld complaints about Calvin Klein's *Obsession* advertisement featuring Kate Moss lying on her stomach naked on a couch. Critics claimed it was designed to make Miss Moss appear childlike beneath the headline "Obsession for Men".

The Calvin Klein jeans campaign which ran in America was stopped by the ASA before it came to Britain, after being accused of promoting pornographic images of children.

At the agency Select, which signed up the 12-year-old schoolgirl Rachel Kirby this year, a spokesman said: "We are not going to comment on general remarks made by Roger Moore." Miss Kirby's career was put on hold after an outcry.

Letters, page 19



Moore at the conference: "The many Lolitas of today hardly raise a murmur"

Photo offer to anorexic appalling, says doctor

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DOCTOR today adds his voice to criticism of model agencies seeking teenage girls who are dangerously underweight, to emulate the look made fashionable by the "superwaifs" Kate Moss and Jodie Kidd.

Girls who are already underweight are starving themselves to make the grade and leading agencies are said to have approached anorexic girls in the street, offering them lucrative contracts.

Last May, Lucy Cope, 15, was approached by two agencies who told her she had the look they wanted. At the time she weighed 6½ stone and was a patient at Rhodes Farm, a residential clinic for people with eating disorders.

Dr Dee Dawson, who runs the clinic in Mill Hill, north London, told *Company* magazine: "It was appalling. Lucy was one of the sickest girls we had. Her bones were protruding. She had the haunched look that most anorexics have. How anyone can think those looks are nice is unbelievable."

He added: "What these model agencies are doing is irresponsible. They don't care about the damage they are doing to girls."

Jo Fonseca, director of Models 1, told *Company*: "Models have to be slim. I can think of nothing worse than being fat."

Secret child abuse survey records boasts by tourists

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

TWO British women posing holidaymakers have produced the first academic study of child sex tourists by interviewing 300 men in bars and on beaches.

The researchers found that their subjects, bored with the company of foreign prostitutes who spoke little English, were happy to recount their experiences to strangers from home. The two women have been mistaken for prostitutes, man-handled, robbed and once faced a death threat while working on behalf of the campaign group End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, which organised the Stockholm conference.

The child sex tourist, they found, comes from all walks of life, although businessmen have the advantage of being able to give their family and friends an excuse for travelling to the countries where prostitution flourishes. Some are paedophiles but many say

they like young-looking women and go to bars or brothels where a lot of girls under 18 are working and will sleep with them without asking any questions.

Julia O'Connell Davidson and Jacqueline Sanchez Taylor, of Leicester University, flew to seven destinations, including Goa and Thailand and ones in the Caribbean and Latin America. Once abroad, they arranged accommodation in self-catering apartment blocks, which are preferred by child sex tourists because of their relative privacy compared with hotels. The researchers dressed in holiday clothes and went to bars, sometimes saying they were conducting research for the travel industry and handing out questionnaires. They listened to men pouring out their boasts of sexual adventures.

The sex tourists, the researchers found, convince themselves that it is natural

for girls to become sexually mature at an early age in poorer countries, that they are helping them by giving them money, or that they are older than they seem because, for example, "all Thais look young". The men they met ranged from Yorkshire miners to millionaires, aged 18 to 80. Some said of the girls in countries where children are used as dancers in bars: "It's different, it's natural here. They are like plants, they grow quicker. Look at how the six-year-olds dance - it's sensual, it's sexual."

Men in their sixties walked around with young girls and proudly told the researchers that age made no difference to a man's sexual attraction. Many convinced themselves that they were not engaged with prostitutes but were having holiday romances. When the girls asked for money, the men persuaded themselves they were making a gift.

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Unionists call for loyalists' exclusion from peace talks

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FRINGE loyalist parties should be expelled from multi-party talks at Stormont after Protestant paramilitaries threatened to kill two loyalists, a leading Unionist politician said yesterday. Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, claimed that the loyalists had breached the Mitchell principles of non-violence.

The MP for East Belfast wrote to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, after the Combined Loyalist Military Command ordered two headline loyalists to leave Northern Ireland or be killed. On Wednesday, Billy Wright was given 72 hours to leave, and Alex Kerr, on remand facing terrorist charges, was ordered to leave within 72 hours of his release from prison.

Mr Robinson said that the statement from the loyalist command, which is the umbrella organisation for the three main Protestant paramilitary groups, made it impossible for the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party to remain at



Wright: shrewd and as hard as nails, says RUC

the talks. The DUP is the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the UDP is the political wing of the Ulster Defence Association.

The Northern Ireland Office declined to comment on Mr Robinson's letter last night. It is understood that Sir Patrick feels it is up to Senator George Mitchell, the chairman who drew up the non-violence principles, to decide whether they

have been breached. Mr Mitchell, who will chair the next session of the talks on September 9, will examine remarks yesterday by David Ervine, of the DUP, who sought to distance his party from the threat to Mr Wright. Mr Ervine refused to condemn the statement by the loyalist command but said that the expulsion order and death threat were wrong on humanitarian grounds.

In Dublin, the death threat provoked criticism from John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister. He said Northern Irish politics had no place for such exclusion orders. "Politics is a democratic business, where one must be willing to allow others to express their views in an open and free way."

In his home town of Portadown, Co. Armagh, where he insists he will remain, Mr Wright, 36, stepped up his personal security after vowing to defy the order to leave. As two tattooed minders stood guard, he brushed aside the death threat. Speaking at his girlfriend's house in a staunchly Protestant area, he said: "I have defied the IRA before because they are wrong. I will also defy this order. Of course I will be taking security measures."

Nicknamed King Rat, he has a fearsome reputation in Northern Ireland. He has survived at least six IRA attempts on his life. He is intelligent and articulate, does not drink or smoke, and his sharp features and lean look confirm his interest in keeping fit. An RUC detective who once questioned him said: "He's as hard as nails and very, very shrewd. Billy Wright has been under the threat of death all his life, so this is nothing new."

His mother is buried in the graveyard at Drumree, where he was heavily involved in the Orange Order stand-off last month. He said: "I feel the Unionist people have been badly treated and I don't believe attempts at a settlement have been along the democratic lines. My feelings are exactly the same as the vast majority of Unionists."



Liam Gallagher at Heathrow for his American flight yesterday. "I'm not a supermodel, you know."

Same old tune as the Oasis singer flies out to lead their big reunion

By EMMA WILKINS

MOST rock bands go through a break-up and years of waiting before they hold a big reunion. Oasis have cut the procedure down to four days.

Liam Gallagher, the lead singer who abandoned his colleagues at Heathrow on Monday 15 minutes before they left for an American tour, flew out to join them yesterday. With familiar volubility he insisted that they remained on cordial terms, and caught up with them in Detroit after achieving vast publicity.

Liam, 23, said that his brother Noel — who had to step in as temporary lead singer — was looking forward to their reunion. "Me and Noel are all right. We have had chats and that. He can't wait to see me."

Defending his decision to abandon the

band while he apparently sorted out a house move, he said: "It's not petulance. To tell you the truth, thousands of fans can wait. Being in a band, you write songs for yourself first. You do your gigs and that after you are settled and happy and I wasn't happy. I didn't have anywhere to live."

The £750,000 house in North London which he shares with the actress Patsy Kensit, 28, has been sold recently and the couple are looking for a new home. He denied reports that the delay was influenced by his fiancée. Speaking on GMTV, he said: "It wasn't Patsy's fault. She loves me being in a band. I just had to come back and do a bit of packing like you do when you have got a house and you have got to move."

When asked by reporters at Heathrow airport if he had solved his problems, Mr

Gallagher said: "What's it got to do with you? I hate you lot, yet you're always asking me too many things. I'm not a supermodel, you know."

The second concert of the American tour takes place this evening at Detroit. Reporters suggested that Oasis fans might want to know if he was fit to perform following an earlier explanation that he had a throat infection, but he replied: "You're not my fans, so keep your nose out of it."

Meanwhile, Ms Kensit issued a statement through her solicitors which said: "In the light of the present coverage, our client wishes to make it clear that she did not instruct or in any way seek to persuade Liam Gallagher to withdraw from travelling to America with Oasis."

Rock and pop, pages 35, 36

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tickets sell fast for Princess

Tickets for a charity dinner in Sydney at which Diana, the Princess of Wales, will make a speech have almost sold out two months in advance, the organiser said.

The Princess's popularity is undimmed by her new divorced status, according to Marie Sutton, appeals director for the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. More than 700 of 1,000 tickets for the dinner have been sold at more than £500 each.

Videos cut crime

Surveillance cameras in the West End area of Newcastle upon Tyne, scene of riots four years ago, have cut crime involving drugs, muggings, break-ins and car thefts by a fifth in their first year of operation. Police said the cameras led to 410 arrests.

TV chef burgled

The television chef Keith Floyd and his wife Tess returned from the Continent to find their burglars had ransacked their country cottage in East Hagbourne, Oxfordshire. A prized 100-year-old bottle of Glenfiddich whisky was among the many items taken.

Mine protest

Police arrested 18 people who climbed on to bulldozers and digging machinery in a protest against opencast coal mining near Ystradgynlais, Powys. The "Reclaim the Valleys" group wants a local referendum before planning permission is granted.

Fan pays penalty

Dean Charles, 19, of West Norwood, south London, who hurled a glass through a pub window after watching Gareth Southgate miss the Euro 96 semi-final penalty, was fined £250. "I was drunk and got carried away," he told Camberwell magistrates.

For long drives

Ian Berne, a car-hire chief at Chigwell, Essex, has bought a 35ft stretch limo, an American Velux, to chauffeur stars around London. At £100,000, it has disco lighting, television and video. Along one side of the car is a cocktail bar; on the other, seating for 16 people.

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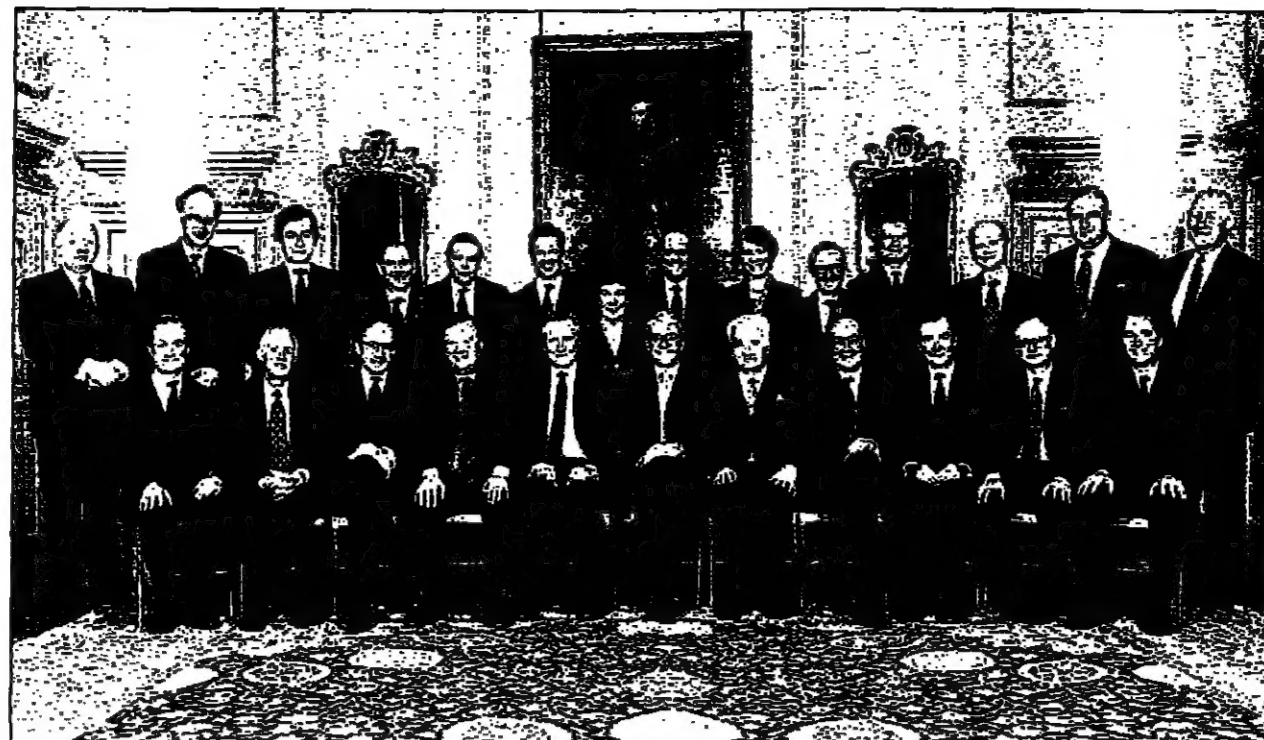
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The Cabinet: from left front, Peter Lilley, Antony Newton, Malcolm Rifkind, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine, John Major, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Michael Howard, Ian Lang, John Gummer, William Waldegrave, back, Alastair Goodlad, Sir George Young, Stephen Dorrell, Michael Forsyth, Lord Cranborne, Michael Portillo, Gillian Shephard, Brian Mawhinney, Virginia Bottomley, Douglas Hogg, Roger Freeman, William Hague, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Sir Robin Butler

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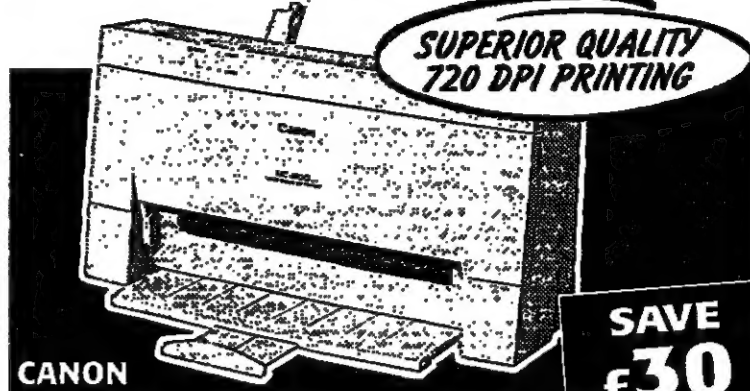
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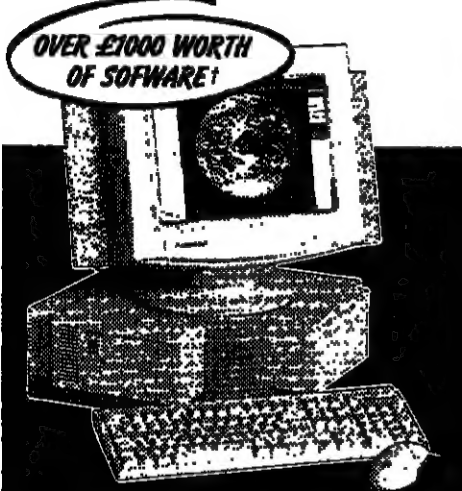
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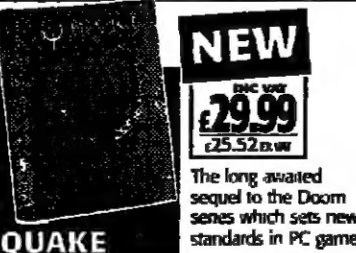
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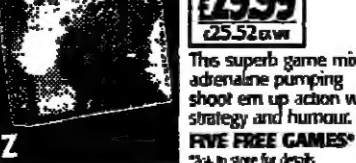
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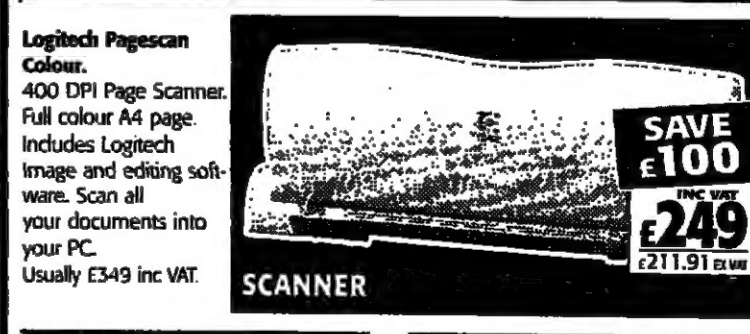
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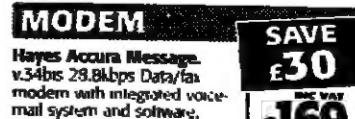
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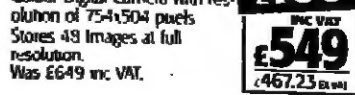
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Hollywood paints modern artists as colourful new heroes



Portraits of artists are the new trend for the cinema. Darya Alberge, arts correspondent, reports from the Venice Film Festival

HOLLYWOOD has found a new breed of hero: wild, free spirits who live recklessly and then die the same way. Modern films are discovering the modern artist.

Film-makers are making an unprecedented number of movies inspired by the most colourful lives of 20th-century painters and sculptors. The latest, *Basquiat*, about the graffiti artist who found international acclaim but died of a heroin overdose in 1988, is part of the main programme of the Venice Film Festival.

David Bowie, the rock star and actor, plays *Basquiat*'s mentor Andy Warhol, wearing one of the pop artist's famous snow-white wigs. The film is written and directed by another artist and Warhol associate, Julian Schnabel, best known for collages of broken crockery.

Among those also destined to immortality on screen are painters Jackson Pollock, Picasso and Modigliani, and the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Artists pro-

vide scriptwriters with drama which might be dismissed as unbelievable if not based on real lives. "Bio-pics" have long provided Hollywood with larger-than-life portraits of the older masters: Kirk Douglas's Van Gogh in *Lust for Life* and Charlton Heston's Michelangelo in *The Agony and the Ecstasy*.

But the industry has been noting a recent fascination for 20th-century artists, with the strength of the art market turning some into stars in their own right. Emma Thompson's *Carrington*, the story of the painter Dora Carrington, and Mary Harron's *I Shot Andy Warhol*, both won acclaim earlier this year.

Al Pacino has been cast as Modigliani, the master portraitist inspired by primitive art and best known for his elongated and sensuous images of women. Pacino will also direct and produce Norman Rosenthal, who organised the staging of a Modigliani exhibition at the



In the frame: from left, Jeffrey Wright as Basquiat and David Bowie as Warhol with their film co-stars Gary Oldman and Dennis Hopper

Royal Academy, said that the artist's impoverished life and his love affairs could provide plenty of exotic material, but there was always a danger that films about artists could descend into cliché.

Three rival productions on

the action-painter Jackson Pollock are in the pipeline. One version has Robert De Niro, directed by Barbra Streisand. The second has Ed Harris while another, which focuses on Pollock's relationship with his mistress, is

expected to feature Willem Dafoe.

Michelle Pfeiffer is understood to be considering a film about Georgia O'Keeffe, the American pioneer of modernism, and the comic actor Steve Martin is finishing a script for

a screen adaptation of his play *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*.

More controversially, there have been reports of at least two films dealing with the life and death from AIDS, of Robert Mapplethorpe: one of

them, by a former lover, is being rewritten by the rock star Patti Smith, who was a friend of Mapplethorpe.

There could be censorship difficulties: lurid sadomasochism was a trademark. Families and friends are

not always enthusiastic. Objections were made by both the father of Basquiat and the son of Picasso neither would allow film-makers to reproduce images or reproductions. Schnabel had to paint the Basquiat himself.

Neither relative was able to stop the films going ahead but the Merchant Ivory team behind *Surviving Picasso*, which stars Sir Anthony Hopkins, has seen their movie rejected by Venice. One source described it as sub-standard.

The Venetian committee did, however, pick Miramax's *Basquiat* for the main competition. Jeffrey Wright, a Tony award-winner, plays the artist who first made his mark by spray-painting subway trains. It traces Jean-Michel Basquiat's life from his early days sleeping in a cardboard box in New York to his esteemed position in the art world just before his death at the age of 27.

He was the first black artist to break into the powerful, white New York art establishment. His images were peopled by figures with African mask-like faces against skyscrapers, words and rockets. He was dubbed by the *New York Times* as "the art world's closest equivalent to James Dean".

Swedes put one over the French with gooseberries

WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE choice of fresh fruit and vegetables available this week includes early English plums, and two items the French never touch: swede and gooseberries. Swede, essential accompaniment to haggis and excellent in a mashed mix with carrots and parsnips, the French feed only to livestock. Gooseberries, big business in eastern Europe, most French avoid. It took the Swedes people, (not vegetables) to discover that gooseberry sauce was an ideal accompaniment to lightly fried or grilled Camembert.

Promotions include: Asda: Fresh large chicken £3.69 for 1.81kg, rump steak £7.99 a kg, lamb chops £7.34 a kg, tomatoes £1.19 a kg. Budgens: Rindless smoked back bacon rashers £1.59 for eight (250g), large fresh eggs 69p for six, cherry tomatoes 85p for 250g, French Williams pears 39p a lb, corn on the cob 20p each.

Co-op: Fresh lamb chops £6.59 a kg, fresh medium chickens £4.29 for 1.81kg, chicken breast fillets £3.79 for 600g, thin sliced ham 79p for 113g, WallsBlue Ribbon vanilla ice cream 89p a tin.

Harrods: Bayonne ham £3.70 for 10g, ostrich biltong 80p for 10g, Waldorf salad £1.07 for 10g.

Iceland: Beef grill steaks £1.69 for 4, sirloin steaks £1.69 for 261g, prawns £3.99 for 400g, straight chips £1.29 for 1.81kg, vegetable tikka masala 99p for 400g, chocolate cheesecake £1.4 for 400g, chocolate mandarin gâteau £3.79 for 16 portions.

Marks & Spencer: £2 per kilo of all cuts home produced lamb, Charentais melons

£1.49 each, smoked salmon pâté 99p a tub, salmon fillets £8.99 for six. Morrisons: Topside/silver-side £1.99 a lb, sirloin/rump steak £3.99 a lb, minced beef 99p a lb, frozen grill steaks £1.99 for eight, cod fillet £1.99 a lb, salmon £1.79 a lb, sardines £1.35 a lb, frozen family chicken £3.75 for 2.8kg. Sainsbury's: Brisket of beef £4.09 a kg, chicken breast fillets £7.99 for eight (1.19kg), Scottish smoked salmon £5.99 for 450g, ham on the bone 95p a lb, red/green peppers 69p a lb, Thompson seedless white grapes 79p a lb, nectarines 89p a punnet.

Sainsbury's: Fresh top rump steak £4.87 a kg, whole shoulder of lamb £2.69 a kg, fresh chicken fillets £3.99 for four, dwarf beans 69p for 250g, mixed peppers 99p for three, tomatoes 45p a lb, plums 74p a lb, lychees £1.49 for 250g. Somerfield: Fresh rolled shoulder of pork £3.26 a kg, fresh lamb loin chops £2.59 a lb, carrots 12p a lb, mayonnaise 69p for 500ml, UK Discovery apples 44p a lb.

Tesco: Cornflakes 99p for 750g, topside of beef £4.99 a kg, large pork chops £4.69 a kg, half leg of lamb £3.19 a kg, Scottish herring 85p a lb, runner beans 79p a lb, white seedless grapes 74p a lb.

Waitrose: Free-range chicken £3.29 for 2.3kg, four breasts chicken breasts £3.49 for 500g, ten shoulder of pork steaks £3.99 for 770g, Aberdeen Angus ground steak £2.49 for 500g, green beans £1.29 for 300g, curly lettuce 39p each, green peas 79p a lb.

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At -5° your fingers go numb. At -15° your body goes numb. At -30° your mind goes numb. However resilient you are, when hypothermia sets in, normal disciplines go to the wall. Now then does a Royal Marine avoid the problem and remain ready to fight?

He's trained to avoid hypothermia in the first place, by recognising and understanding the symptoms. Think you could cope?

In the absence of Arctic conditions, read through these questions. There aren't necessarily right or wrong answers, but then again it's pointless attempting them if you're not going to be completely honest. We need people, but they must be the right people.

In the middle of the night, police arrive and arrest you on suspicion of theft. You are innocent. Do you:

- Say so, refuse to go to the station while losing your temper?
- Ask them what they're about and demand to talk to a superior?
- Agree to go to the station and help with enquiries, not forgetting to phone a solicitor?

Check how well you can tell the time without looking at your watch. Guess out loud what time it is. Now look at your watch. Double-check what time it is and nail it out. Now, without looking at your watch again, answer the following question: What is the number 6 on your watch? (Is it a numeral 6, a Roman numeral, a dash, two dashes, a triangle or what?)

In the Royal Marines you need to pay attention to detail and learn to take in even those things which at first seem unimportant.

A helicopter you were travelling in has to make an emergency landing on its way carrying out a night mission behind enemy lines. Once on the ground it's clear that the helicopter is useless.

There are eight of you with only enough food rations to last two days. What do you do?

1) Stay exactly where you are in the hope that you will be picked up by your own forces, but risk having been seen by the enemy?



ROYAL MARINES COMMANDO

1) Push on to try to accomplish your original mission objectives, even though the timetable for completion will now be badly disrupted?

2) Try to withdraw at 3000 yds possible towards the nearest friendly encampment but influence the possibility of giving your location away to enemy forces in the area?

Now a memory test. Study this list of objects. Can you say which one corresponds with which number even when the numbers are asked out of order?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Postilion | 4. Pegs |
| 2. Tent | 5. Guy ropes |
| 3. Mallet | |



ROYAL MARINES COMMANDO

On operations and on training exercises Royal Marines often have to form a plan where none exists. Imagine for a moment that the temperatures are close to freezing, in front of you there is a fast flowing, 12 metre wide river.

You need to get across as do the other 7 men who are with you. You know that a mile upstream there is a small village where you could probably find a boat to get you across. What do you decide to do?

1) Swim across one by one, thinking that the river isn't really so wide, but you know you'll get wet?

2) Use your ropes to winch yourself across above the water?

3) Or make your way to the village to look for a boat?

Time is against you, so you need to think quickly. Not easy is it?

A quick final question, can you remember what number three corresponded with in the exercise before?

Those are the questions over with. The mere fact that you've bothered to go through them already says a lot about you.

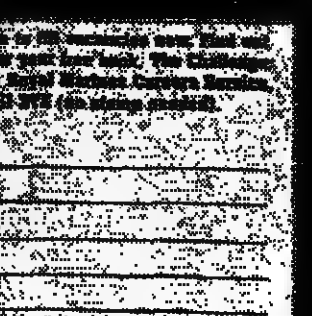
Go back and look over your results. Do you think they indicate someone who can provide commonsense solutions to practical problems?

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The training is intense and professional. Battle conditions, the pressures, the noise, the confusion are all realistically simulated. You'll learn advanced survival techniques.

But much more than all the superman stuff, what we emphasise is the mental battle. The determination to continue and the gradual change in approach that makes every Royal Marine able to operate in the most hazardous conditions in the world.

Prove yourself, and you'll use your skills alongside some of the finest men in the land to defend your country's interests on land as well as at sea. If that kind of vision appeals, we need people now, so please fill in and post the coupon to us, or call 0345 300 123.



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President's marriage of convenience to a loathed guru ends in scandal

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

MAN IN THE NEWS

DICK MORRIS was the architect of the "permanent campaign", the political guru who reshaped and energised President Clinton's re-election campaign and believed that there could be no let-up for those holding or seeking office. Yesterday he resigned amid reports of a year-long affair with a prostitute.

A small, dapper man, he was forever tracking polls, taking the voters' pulse and devising ways to outsmart the opposition, even if it meant pocketing their ideas. His

approach to politics made him the President's alter ego but made him loathed among White House aides. He was variously described as an evil genius, a Rasputin, a Svengali and a man with a sure intuition for the public mood. What rankled was that Mr Morris habitually worked both sides of the political street, dispensing advice to whoever paid him, whether Republican or Democrat. Among his more startling Republican clients were Jesse Helms, the ultra-right-wing senator from North Carolina, and

Trent Lott, the Mississippi senator who is now the Senate majority leader.

But Clinton aides had to give him credit for the President's comeback after the loss of both the House and the Senate to Republicans in 1994. He it was who urged the President to move to the political centre and to embrace the Republicans' seven-year timetable to balance the budget, to declare the era of big government to be over and to sign the controversial Republican Bill for welfare reform, which infuriated many Democrats.

Mr Morris also persuaded Mr Clinton to advance ideas that had a

popular ring to them — the need for school uniforms and curfews, a call for neighbourhood watch groups and a successful bid to make the television networks improve the quality and number of programmes for children.

He and Mr Clinton go back nearly 20 years to the President's first race for Governor of Arkansas. They met when Mr Morris arrived in Little Rock from New York. After winning the election, Mr Clinton felt no further need for the Morris expertise and dropped him. But he was defeated at the end of his first term and turned once more to Mr Morris.

This time they remained together until 1990, when they had a tremendous row during Mr Clinton's last campaign for Governor. Accounts vary, but the pair were screaming at each other over Mr Morris working for Republicans, and Mr Clinton finally either struck his guru or grabbed him by the shoulders and spun him around. Either way, Mr Morris was heard muttering for weeks afterwards: "I can't believe Clinton hit me."

When their marriage of convenience was reconciled after 1994, it was done so in great secrecy. Almost nobody was aware that

they were again in touch. Mr Clinton referred to Mr Morris only by the code-name "Charlie", and his renewed influence became known only gradually. He was called the Greta Garbo of political strategists.

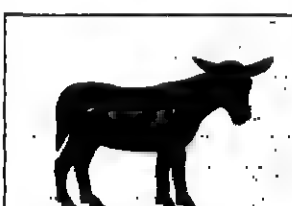
Each Monday for at least the past year, Mr Morris has left his home in Connecticut and his wife, Eileen McGann, a lawyer, to spend the week in Washington. He stayed at the venerable Jefferson Hotel, just walking distance up 16th Street from the White House and the scene of his alleged encounters with a prostitute. It was a measure of the newcomer's unpopularity in the

White House that Harold Holt, Deputy Chief of Staff and a longtime adversary, even questioned the bills run up by Mr Morris at his hotel mini-bar.

Mr Morris would talk to the President anywhere from five to 10 times during the week and would also dispatch a stream of advisory memos. His fee was never disclosed, but he stood to profit from commissions for the advertising booked on television by the Clinton campaign.

Only in this last week has he come from the shadows. Above all, he was confident Mr Clinton would easily win in November.

Confident Clinton tells America 'the best is yet to come'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN CHICAGO

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION '96

THE resignation of Dick Morris, President Clinton's top political adviser, yesterday marked what was to have been a night of triumph.

On Wednesday Mr Clinton had become the first Democratic President in 60 years to be renominated unopposed, and he was last night launching the final campaign of his political career with an acceptance speech unveiling his vision for steering America into the 21st century.

It was the climax of a Democratic convention that had united powerfully behind his leadership over the past few days and had become hugely confident of victory on November 5. A CBS Television poll yesterday gave Mr Clinton a commanding 15-point lead over Bob Dole, his Republican opponent.

"The best is yet to come — the best days of America, the best days of the Clinton-Gore Administration," the President proclaimed to hundreds of cheering supporters who greeted him on a floodlit baseball field when he finally arrived in Chicago by helicopter on Wednesday night after a triumphant four-day train ride through the heartlands.

Mr Clinton was formally nominated at 10.59pm on Wednesday when the key electoral state of Ohio was given the honour of sending him over the 2,145 delegates re-

quired. As 25,000 delegates erupted, Mr Clinton appeared on three huge video screens, punching the air in his hotel room, and Jennifer Holiday took the stage to sing *This Is The Moment*.

But the night really belonged to Al Gore, the Vice-President, who Mr Clinton clearly wants to succeed him in 2000. Breaking with tradition, the White House had him address the convention 24 hours early so he would not be eclipsed by Mr Clinton's appearance last night, and Mr Gore seized the chance to establish himself as the heir apparent. "Gore in Four," the convention chanted as he took the stage.

He skewered Mr Dole who, at the Republican convention, had offered himself as a bridge back to a stronger, more tranquil America. "Senator Dole offered himself as a bridge to the past. Tonight Bill Clinton and I offer ourselves as a bridge to the future," he declared. "The Republicans and their 73-year-old nominee were 'the party of memory'."

the Democrats the "party of hope".

Mr Gore's attack was all the more effective because he leavened it with praise. Mr Dole was a "good and decent man" and "we honour his service to his country", but he had also voted against much landmark legislation in the past 40 years, including the creation of the Medicare and Medicaid health insurance schemes and President Kennedy's Peace Corps. "He even voted against funds to send a man to the Moon," Mr Gore continued. Again referring to Mr Dole's San Diego speech, he said: "If he's the most optimistic man in America, I'd hate to see the pessimists."

Mr Gore lavishly praised Mr Clinton's record, especially his stand against the tobacco industry. He recalled how Mr Clinton stood firm in the face of Republican threats to shut down the Government last year unless he signed their "reckless" budget. "He never flinched or wavered. He never stooped to their level. And, of course, he never attacked his opponent's wife."

Senator Chris Dodd, who delivered the nomination speech, also denounced the endless Republican attacks on the Clintons' integrity. "Let us not dishonour our democracy. The American people are fed up with relentless assaults on people's reputations. This has to stop and stop now. Stop attacking the President's family. Stick to the issues."



President Clinton with his wife, Hillary, and daughter, Chelsea, after arriving at a Chicago baseball field by helicopter

It's the economy again, stupid

BY TIM HAMES

COMMENTARY

IN THE presidential election of 1992 the issue was, in the notorious words of the Clinton campaign, "it's the economy, stupid". But public attention was then focused on the impact of the recession and unemployment, which the Democratic challenger pledged to fix.

Deprived of short-term misery to blame on President Clinton, the Republicans this year have taken a different tack. Their argument is that the medium-term rate of growth, of about 2.5 per cent, which has prevailed for 25 years, is too low to sustain the

American dream. Instead, Bob Dole's plan recommends a target of 3.5 per cent. Whether the Republican candidate's proposal via the route of radical tax cuts is plausible will be critical to the election outcome.

This is a much more complex question to put before the electorate than the stark "are you better off today than you were four years ago?" posed by Ronald Reagan in 1980 and Mr Clinton last time. Medium-term growth depends on two factors: the rise in numbers of employed and the increase in productivity. For the past 20 years the American economy has seen an increase in the workforce, averaging 1.5 per cent a year and a rise in productivity of about 1 per cent. In absolute terms, Americans remain the world's most productive people but their advantage is diminishing.

The flexible American labour market is good at creating jobs. The new employees have been drawn mostly from two sources: an increasing number of women workers and immigration. This constant source of new people from other countries has been the American secret weapon. In the 25 years from 1965 alone, the total population rose by more than 55 million, the equivalent of incorporating Britain as the 51st state.

However, immigration has become unpopular with the public. As the rise in the proportion of women entering the labour force inevitably slows, and the post baby-boom birthrate declines, the attention of politicians has fallen on the level of output-per-person.

Potential solutions vary. In 1992 Mr Clinton espoused higher educational standards, better training and infrastructure investment. The blueprint for this was a book, *The Work of Nations*, written by Robert Reich, his Labour Secretary.

In office, this plan was ambushed by Congress and Wall Street which disliked its cost and the scale of Washington's interference. Mr Clinton has followed a course of low inflation, reduction in the deficit, and enhanced free trade.

The objective has been to reassure the bond market and hence produce lower long-term interest rates which, in turn, will spur greater capital investment which will raise growth rates.

The Republican approach starts from different assumptions. They believe individual output could grow if only excessive and complicated taxation, burdensome regulation, and the power of the legal profession were tackled. Hence the Dole claim that taxes could be substantially cut, the economy improved, and the budget balanced, provided there was much less government activism. In seizing this position Mr Dole now sounds like John Kennedy just as Bill Clinton mimics General Eisenhower. Whether any of this debate is framing what ordinary voters think is doubtful. In practice they will choose between the competing slogans of "more jobs created" versus "tax cuts coming". Yet in terms of what makes the American economy tick, the Statue of Liberty is a good pointer: the country needs more immigrants.

Drugs vice returns to Miami

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A DECADE after the television series *Miami Vice* put the city on the map of the international narcotics trade, drug trafficking is making a big comeback.

Teenage drug abuse, which rose 78 per cent nationally in the past three years, was higher in the Miami area, where cocaine use has risen 166 per cent.

In the past 18 months authorities have seized more than 46 tonnes of cocaine in the area, well up on the early 1990s when traffickers appeared to have abandoned the region for less well policed routes, especially along the Mexico border.

Under attack from Republicans over the nation's failing drug policy, the Clinton Administration says the new trend pre-dates its tenure in office. This week Bob Dole, the

Republican presidential candidate, launched a publicity campaign attacking the Clinton Administration's record on drugs.

A 30-second television advertisement accused Mr Clinton of cutting spending to fight drugs. "Bill Clinton said he'd lead the war on drugs and change America. All he did was change his mind," the voice-over said.

What is more worrying, say experts, is that the resurgence of the drug trade in south Florida is only a symptom of a much wider phenomenon.

South American drug traffickers, who have in recent years turned to smuggling routes into America via Mexico, are picking up their activity in the Caribbean, say officials, who add that the small island states are struggling to combat an increased flow of drugs.

money laundering and drug use.

Experts are also concerned that the new threat comes at a time when help for foreign anti-drug measures is dropping because of budget cuts in America. Meanwhile, the Caribbean islands face increasing economic domestic difficulties of their own.

Counter-drug agencies all over the Caribbean report signs of an increase in the flow of drug dealing. Security experts say the corrupting influence of the rising trade is endangering the political stability of the islands.

"We are just waking up to the problem. Drug traffickers are increasing their hold in the region and pose a threat to stability," said Michel Amiot, director of the European Union's Caribbean drug liaison office, based in Barbados.

Titanic survivors see hull section raised

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

SALVAGE crews succeeded at their third attempt yesterday in raising a section of the *Titanic* from the ocean floor in an operation that has been criticised as "grave-robbing".

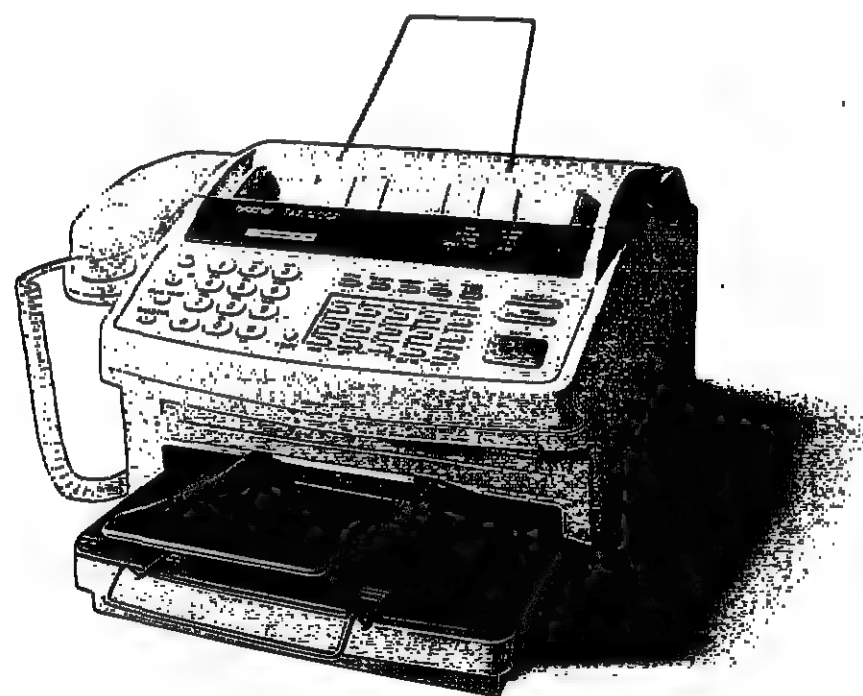
Three survivors of the doomed transatlantic liner, which hit an iceberg on her maiden voyage in 1912, were among about 1,700 tourists who watched the salvage effort live on video on board two cruise ships at the scene.

The operation was organised by RMS Titanic, the company that obtained salvage rights to the *Titanic* after the hull was found 350 miles off Newfoundland in 1985. The 30ft by 24ft chunk of

hull weighing 20 tonnes was lifted from the its resting place 12,500ft below the surface by two balloons attached to it with heavy chains.

Two attempts failed earlier this week when a submarine proved unable to loosen a balloon from its ballast and then cut the balloon free of the wreckage instead.

The families of some of the 1,522 victims of the disaster have expressed outrage about the wreck being disturbed. But some survivors, like Edith Haisman, 99, of Southampton, who travelled to the site, supported the expedition. RMS Titanic plans to bring the hull section to New York.



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CHICAGO NOTEBOOK

Shrine to politics of tobacco

On Wednesday the Democratic convention nominated Bill Clinton for President. Last night he accepted. It was a process so utterly devoid of suspense that one longed for the days when party bigwigs met in smoke-filled rooms to pick their man.

Chicago invented the "smoke-filled room". The Republicans' 1920 convention was deadlocked after four ballots, so on the night of June 11 a dozen senators gathered in Room 408 of the Blackstone Hotel and settled on Warren Harding as their candidate. They asked him if there was any reason he could not stand. He opted not to tell the senators about his mistress, and went on to become one of America's most unsavoury presidents.

I went in search of that original smoke-filled room. The Blackstone Hotel still exists, a 22-storey turn-of-the-century red brick building on Michigan Avenue. But it is now owned by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who has turned two floors into a centre for transcendental meditation. From the faded grandeur of the wood-panelled lobby, I took the lift to the fourth floor and room 408. My knocks went unanswered. A cleaning woman let me in and there it was, the room that made a president — drably decorated, filled with ugly 1970s furniture and available to anyone at a modest nightly rate.

One day, when the modern convention has been sanitised to death, x-rated junkies will make this a shrine.

Back in the convention hall, Al Gore, the notoriously stiff Vice-President, began his speech. He offered to perform his version of the energetic *Macarena* dance. He stood ramrod straight for ten seconds then asked: "Would you like to see it again?"

The delegates roared with laughter, but Mr Gore later recalled that tears by remembering how his sister, a lifelong smoker, died from lung cancer. "Until I draw my last breath I will pour my heart and soul into the cause of protecting our children from the dangers of smoking," the Vice-President vowed.

He might start by stopping tobacco's sponsorship of the Democratic convention. The cigarette manufacturers Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson and UST have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars underwriting the expenses and wooing Democrats at parties in Chicago this week.

MARTIN FLETCHER

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY AUGUST 30 1996

Bank pays compensation and fine after inquiry by Imro

Rogue trader costs Jardine £12m

BY ROBERT MILLER IN
LONDON AND MICHAEL
STEINBERGER
IN HONG KONG

JARDINE FLEMING, the oldest established investment bank in Hong Kong, has paid investors £12 million in compensation after a trader diverted profits from market deals into a personal account. Jardine Fleming is 50 per cent owned by Robert Fleming, the UK private merchant bank.

Companies within the Fleming group have also been fined a total of £700,000 and ordered to pay £122,000 in costs. Colin Armstrong, 42, a former senior fund manager and director of Jardine Fleming Investment Management (JFIM) in Hong Kong, was found to have carried out share deals on behalf of offshore funds and unit trust companies to benefit his own account and to the detriment of clients.

A five-month joint investigation by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the

UK watchdog for fund managers, and Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) established that Mr Armstrong had engaged in the late allocation of deals after changes in the price of the investments traded had occurred.

In a practice sometimes referred to as "rat trading", Mr Armstrong, who has since left the company and returned to the UK, would take the profits if the share or option prices

rose, while if the market went against him he would pass the losses on to investors. The investors were JF Pacific Securities Trust, an authorised Hong Kong unit trust, and Fleming Pacific Fund, a sub-fund of the Luxembourg-registered Fleming Flagship Fund.

Broken down, the Imro fines, plus costs of £122,000, were levied on Jardine Fleming Asset Management (JFAM) which had to pay £400,000 and three companies in

the Robert Fleming group. Fleming Investment Management, Fleming Investment Trust Management and Save & Prosper Securities, each paying £100,000.

Imro also announced that Robert Thomas, former chief executive of JFAM and JFIM, had his regulatory authorisation withdrawn because he bore ultimate responsibility for the compliance failings in the companies. Mr Thomas, who has returned to the UK, remains a director

of Jardine Fleming Holdings. JFAM has also had its authorisation to conduct business withdrawn by Imro.

The joint statement by the Hong Kong and UK regulators lists a catalogue of serious rule breaches. These largely relate to the fact that Mr Armstrong continued his trading practices for a substantial period of time between 1993 and 1995 even though there were early warning signals that something was

amiss. Further, the watchdogs charged that the fined companies and their senior managers failed to report these concerns. There was also a matter of commissions totalling £8.1 million being retained by an associated broker in contravention of the Imro rules, which state that such commissions must be declared and allowed under special client agreements.

Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, said: "Imro's investigation has amply illustrated the danger of firms paying insufficient attention to the responsibilities that arise when they delegate business to another entity, whether in the UK or overseas."

Gerard McMahon, executive director of Enforcement and a member of the Commission of the SFC, said: "The SFC is committed to maintaining Hong Kong's reputation as an investment management centre in which bad practice will not be tolerated."

Editorial Comment, page 19
Pennington, page 27
Public humiliation, page 29

Save & Prosper fined for Pep breaches

BY ROBERT MILLER

SAVE & PROSPER Equity Plan Managers has been fined £115,000 for rule breaches relating to personal equity plans (Peps) invested directly in shares.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) yesterday announced that the fine on S&P, a part of the Robert Fleming group best known for its

unit trusts and credit cards, was based on six charges and rule breaches between November 1991 and May 1996. S&P has paid compensation of around £69,000 to some 4,600 Pep investors and reimbursed approximately £30,000 to 849 former Pep clients.

The charges on which Imro found S&P guilty include failing to identify and correct differences on stock reconciliations — at one stage

there were 800 uncorrected differences — and allowing overdrafts on client money accounts to a point in April 1995 when around 13,000 investor accounts were overdrawn by more than £500,000.

S&P, which was ordered to pay Imro costs of £31,000, also failed to invest or reinvest money promptly for some of its investors, and did not adequately document its procedures.

Peter Roney, chief executive of S&P, which said that none of the rule breaches related to unit trust Peps, added: "No client has suffered any financial loss. New management has been introduced, training has been improved and new procedures and controls have been implemented to ensure that future operations are of the highest possible standards, and in accordance with Imro rules."

US bonds slump on fears of rate rise

BY JANET RUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN stocks and bonds slumped yesterday after figures suggesting considerable strength in the economy going into the third quarter.

Second-quarter gross domestic product was unexpectedly revised up from 4.2 per cent to 4.8 per cent, while sales of new homes jumped to their fastest rate for five months in July.

The bond market slumped on the news, fearful that the economy still retains healthy momentum and that this might necessitate higher interest rates to head off inflation. The yield on the long bond rose to 7.03 per cent at one point, its highest level since the end of July.

Wall Street followed bonds lower with the Dow Jones industrial average quoted about 50 points lower at one stage but then recovered to a loss of 37 points at mid-session. The FT-SE 100 index fell in sympathy, closing 33.7 points lower at 3,885.0.

The upward revision in growth was unexpected and contrasts dramatically with the 2 per cent growth in the first quarter. The 4.8 per cent second-quarter figure was the strongest since the second quarter of 1994. Nevertheless, fears of higher rates should have been allayed by the fact that both price measures in the GDP release showed no sign of inflationary pressures.

New home sales rose 7.9 per cent, the largest monthly increase since January. Wall Street had expected sales to fall given higher mortgage rates. The median sales price for new homes rose to a record \$143,000, from \$140,000 in June.



Global union: Stephen Bollenbach, left, of Hilton Hotels, and Peter George of Ladbroke, at yesterday's alliance launch

Ladbroke and Hilton rekindle bond

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY



LADBROKE has unveiled a worldwide alliance that will reunite the Hilton brand for the first time in 32 years. It is linking with Hilton Hotels Corporation to extend the reservation system and the American guest loyalty programme across the Hilton network, as well as jointly participating in hotel and gaming expansion.

Hilton Hotels Corporation, founded by Conrad Hilton in 1919, owns the Hilton brand in the United States, while Ladbroke has owned the

brand in the rest of the world since 1987. Peter George, chief executive of Ladbroke, said yesterday that the benefits were difficult to quantify but would run to "tens of millions of dollars". The alliance will own 400 hotels in 49 countries.

HHC added that it would be taking a 5 per cent stake in Ladbroke, although Ladbroke has declined to reciprocate because of its larger financial commitment to HHC's expansion programme.

Mr George will be appointed to the HHC board, while

Steve Bollenbach, chief executive of HHC, will serve on Ladbroke's board. Mr Bollenbach said that the two companies had decided against a full merger because of tax and regulatory difficulties.

The link-up was generally well received in the City. Ladbroke also announced an increase in first-half profits, excluding exceptional, of 29 per cent, to £73 million. The dividend was unchanged at 2.4p, payable on December 2.

Pennington, page 27

Sears set to shed 1,400 more jobs

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND JASON NISSE

THE remainder of the shoe shops that returned to the Sears group as a result of the collapse of Stephen Hinchliffe's shoe empire are to be shut down. Price Waterhouse, the administrators, confirmed yesterday.

The new round of closures could lead to the loss of up to 1,400 jobs. Around 90 of the shops have already been closed — with the loss of around 1,000 jobs — and some 150 stores sold to the companies Stylo and Stead & Simpson. That leaves up to 140 shops to be shut down.

"Those stores that have not been sold are in the process of being closed down," a spokesman for Price Waterhouse said. The latest round of closures will mainly involve branches of Freeman Hardy & Willie, together with some Currys and Trueform outlets.

Sears believes that the £25 million provision it made at the time it put Mr Hinchliffe's shoe businesses into administration is adequate. This came on top of £54 million already written off when Sears originally sold the 379 outlets to Mr Hinchliffe.

Confident

Rolls-Royce reported a first-half loss because of one-off charges, but remained confident about the future and backed its optimism by announcing a big aircraft engine order. The company reported a pre-tax loss of £169 million. Page 27

Savings

Reckitt & Colman, the household products group, has made savings of £30 million from the takeover of L&F in America. Page 26, Tempos 28

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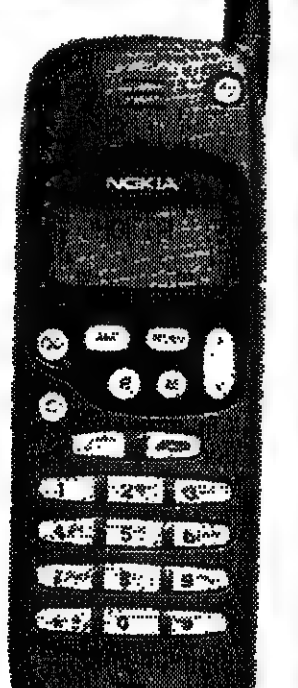
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Cellphones

Cairn's revenue up to £16m

Cairn Energy, the oil and gas company, saw revenue leap to £16.9 million, from £5.2 million, in the half year to June 30. Oil production rose to 8,435 barrels per day, from 2,797.

Operating profits from continuing operations rose to £3.4 million, from £200,000. Net income was £2.5 million, against £5.1 million previously, when there was a £9.5 million profit from disposals. Earnings per share, excluding exceptional items, rose to 2.73p (0.53p). Cairn does not pay an interim dividend.

Isotron £3.7m

Isotron, a provider of sterilisation services for the medical and chemical sectors, lifted profits by 14 per cent, to £3.7 million, in the year to June 30, aided by a maiden contribution by its new business in the Irish Republic. Earnings rose 17 per cent, to 20.2p a share. A 3.76p final dividend makes 5.77p, up 10 per cent.

Antonov hope

Antonov, the developer of a new automatic gearbox, expects to break even in 1997 with the first significant licence fee income, and to make an operating profit the year after. It reported a reduced pre-tax loss of £873,000 (£936,000 loss) for the half year to June 30. Losses per share were 1.23p (1.33p loss). There is again no dividend.

Sunleigh gain

Sunleigh, the consumer and leisure products group, said market conditions remained competitive, with little underlying growth. Pre-tax profits rose to £965,000 (£458,000), in the half to June 30, on sales up to £22.5 million (£20.76 million). Earnings were 0.15p a share (0.06p). There is again no interim dividend.

UK Safety up

UK Safety, a supplier of safety footwear, returned to profit in its half to June 30, earning a pre-tax £314,000, against a £49,000 loss in its previous first half. Earnings were 0.61p a share (0.13p loss), but there is no interim dividend (0.8p).

R-R confident despite £169m loss for half-year

By Sarah Cunningham

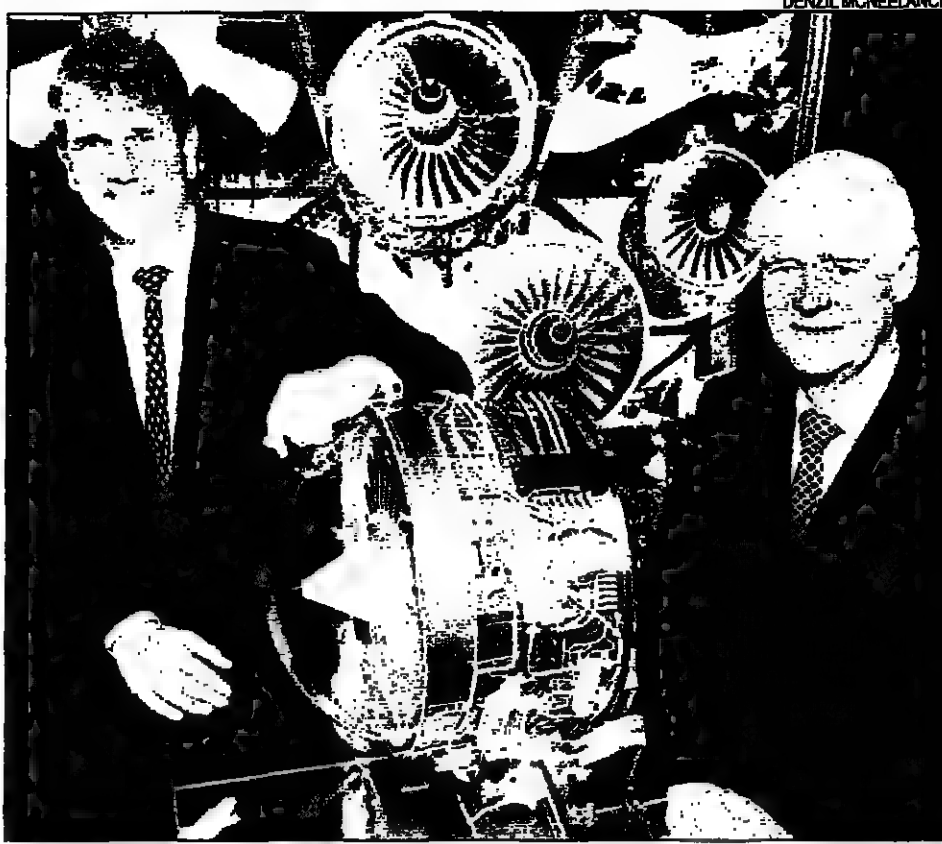
ROLLS-ROYCE reported a first-half loss yesterday because of one-off charges, but was confident about the future and backed its optimism by announcing a major new aircraft engine order.

The company reported a pre-tax loss of £169 million for the six months to June 30, because of exceptional charges of £248 million, compared with a £70 million profit a year ago. "The immediate outlook is steady and, with the introduction of new products over the next few years, the company is confident of achieving future growth," it said.

The charges relate to Rolls-Royce's decision to pull out of the loss-making large steam-power generation business.

Sir Ralph Robins, chairman, said that there had been "significant interest" from potential buyers of that business's Newcastle and Derby plants, although "the negotiations will take time". Some of the £248 million provision could be written back in the event of a sale, he added.

Rolls-Royce said the results showed the underlying strength of its aerospace group. "Our decision to withdraw from large steam-power generation recognises the need to focus upon those businesses where we have established or can establish leading market positions," Sir Ralph said. Sales from continuing operations rose to £1.77 billion (£1.49 billion). A large part of the increase came from



Sir Ralph Robins, right, Rolls-Royce chairman, with John Rose, chief executive, yesterday

the Allison Engine Company, where sales rose £150 million in its first full six-month contribution.

The order book stood at £7 billion at the half-year, up from £6.5 billion a year ago. Sir Ralph highlighted the importance of growth in orders for spares and said prospects for the civil aviation market were "healthier than for some

time". The company announced an order worth up to \$450 million for engines to power Russian-built Tupolev Tu-204 airliners ordered by the Kato Group of Egypt. The contract covers 13 firm orders and 17 options on the RB211-535 engines. The deal represents the production launch of the RR-powered version of the Russian-built airliner.

Losses per share in the half-year were 12.27p, compared to earnings per share of 4.32p a year ago. Analysts were disappointed that the interim dividend, to be paid on January 6, was held at 2p. Most analysts shifted their full-year forecasts slightly higher or lower to around £200 million.

Tempus, page 28

Daimler makes a speedy recovery

By Oliver August

DAIMLER BENZ, Germany's largest industrial group, yesterday announced a return to profit after the conclusion of a dramatic year-long restructuring programme which saw the group's portfolio reduced from 35 to 25 business units.

Jürgen Schrempf, the new chairman, said this year had seen the beginning of Daimler's revival but he dismissed reports about a possible merger with British Aerospace.

"Let there be no mistake. We have only just begun," he said. "Our goal remains that each business unit will achieve a return that is among the top of the world-class companies in each sector where we compete."

Daimler, which makes Mercedes-Benz cars and trucks, recorded net profits of £340 million for the six months to June 30, up from a spectacular £1 billion loss in the first half last year.

USIO The losses were the result of plans by Edzard Reuter, the former chairman, to turn the group into a technology company. Herr Schrempf has now reversed the plans, shedding thousands of jobs at Dasa, the aircraft subsidiary.

The core car business achieved record turnover of £16.5 billion, up 6 per cent.

Daimler shares slipped on profit-taking. Herr Schrempf indicated that a resumption of dividend payments was likely at the end of the full year.

Davies rejects EMU barrier

By Our Economics Correspondent

HOWARD DAVIES, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, rejected any suggestion that countries remaining outside a European monetary union might be denied full access to the single market.

Speaking at an economic forum in Alpbach, Austria, he said any attempt to put up protectionist barriers against countries who do not participate in a single currency would be illegal. He said: "Those who seek to establish a link between EMU non-participation and access to the single market are

either advocating the dismantling of the market itself, which would be economically damaging, or supporting unlawful discrimination—or are seeking to impose political pressure through threats and bluster. None of these approaches seems obviously fruitful at this stage."

He emphasised that the single market pre-dated any move towards a monetary union and that its benefits and validity do not depend on a move to a single currency.

Mr Davies also rejected the

view that a single currency is the only sensible way to ensure price stability and extolled the virtue of an explicit inflation target, as used in Britain.

He said: "We find it difficult to accept that some form of exchange peg against an anchor currency is unambiguously superior to an inflation target in generating credibility and in giving a clear message to domestic firms and employees that monetary policy will not be loosened to accommodate inflationary pressures."

Rise in lending seen as pointer to housing

By Our Economics Correspondent

BANK lending rose to £261 billion in July, 17 per cent up on the total in June, providing evidence of a continuation of gradual recovery in the housing market, according to the British Bankers' Association.

The BBA noted that this series of statistics is not seasonally adjusted, but July last year saw a 3 per cent fall in gross lending compared with June.

Seasonally adjusted figures for net lending showed a rise

of £615 million, against an increase of £591 million in June.

New mortgage approvals rose by 3.6 per cent between June and July, a better performance than the 1.3 per cent rise recorded last year.

Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said that, taking the banking figures with recently published data from building societies, net lending by all mortgage providers seemed to be a little stronger than in June.

Irish ferry group cuts interim loss

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

INCREASED passenger numbers and freight volumes allowed Irish Continental Group, the shipping company, to trim its interim loss by 39 per cent to Ir£1.9 million from just over Ir£3 million for the same period last year.

The company, which operates the Irish Ferries' routes between Ireland and Wales, and Ireland to the Continent, traditionally records a loss for the November-April period because most of its passenger business is in the summer. Garry O'Dea, finance director, said that, since the seasonal loss per share had been reduced to Ir£7.4p from Ir£12.6p for the same period last year, the company was set for "satisfactory" full-year results.

The interim dividend is increased to Ir£1.3p from Ir£1.5p. The Ir£50 million Isle of Inisfree, which was introduced to the Dublin-Holyhead route in 1995, contributed significantly, he said.

Abbey fails to put check in the post

By Sarah Jones

EVIDENCE of more errors by Abbey National emerged yesterday. More than a million borrowers received details of new mortgage payments on a drop in the lender's variable interest rate. In 40,000 cases, the account numbers quoted were muddled and payment figures incorrect.

This was not a computer error, but a problem with quality checking at our printers," said a spokeswoman. "We are reminding our customers today and apologising for any inconvenience. No errors have been made on actual mortgage payments." The printers will fund the reminding.

This latest blunder comes shortly after an administrative error which delayed mortgage applications made with newly acquired National & Provincial, leaving Abbey liable for compensation claims, and a computer error which cancelled thousands of N&P direct debit mortgage payments.

Childcare scheme 'must target poor'

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE Institute for Fiscal Studies today criticises the Government's childcare voucher scheme for channelling funds primarily to better-off families.

Poorer families, who tend to use state-provided nursery education, will not benefit because the voucher would be used to buy the services they currently receive free.

The IFS calculates that the net initial annual gain from the voucher scheme for families with a four-year-old would be £945 on average for the richest families, £129 for middle-income families and only £14 for the poorest 20 per cent.

Chris Giles, of the IFS, said: "The voucher scheme effectively gives a windfall handout to parents who are already willing and able to pay for private childcare services." The Government should direct

subsidies towards lower-income homes so that their children began school on a more equal footing.

The IFS says that subsidising childcare will cost the State money in spite of increasing the probability of some mothers returning to work, so increasing tax revenue and cutting benefit payments. "This effect is outweighed by the cost of subsidies for all families," it says. Childcare subsidies centred on poor families and jobless single parents have the greatest flowback from tax and from reduced benefits, the IFS says.

A Government-ordered study published yesterday by Loughborough University researchers says that three in four single parents have to stay on income support because of a lack of affordable childcare.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's offer poised to go unconditional

LLOYD'S of London will announce today whether its £3.2 billion settlement offer has been declared unconditional, amid suggestions that names in America are to continue their legal fight. The Lloyd's council met yesterday to consider whether the offer had received an acceptable level of acceptances, after an overwhelming response from names around the world. More than 31,000 names—or 90.3 per cent of members—had agreed to the offer by 4pm on Wednesday. Lloyd's agreed to extend the deadline for acceptances for US names, many of whom had delayed responding because of uncertainty caused by legal action in Virginia. Nearly 67 per cent of the 3,000 US names had accepted the offer by Wednesday afternoon. The latest figures are expected today. Disgruntled US names have vowed to continue their legal action even if the settlement offer is declared unconditional.

Bridon declines

BRIDON, the wire and rope products company, suffered a decline in profits to £2.8 million before tax from £3.5 million in the half year to June 30 but said the results demonstrated the encouraging progress from the breakeven position of the second half of 1995. Earnings fell to 2.5p a share from 4.7p. The company is paying this year's interim dividend in the form of a foreign income dividend and is set at 1.72p a share. Excluding the effect of paying the FID the effective dividend was 1.375p (1.324p last time). The shares rose 4½p to 106p.

Roskel gives warning

SHARES of Roskel fell 19p to 90p after the building services company said full-year profits would fall short of expectations. Reporting a fall in first-half pre-tax profits to £643,000, from £1.36 million for the six months to June 30, Roskel said trading conditions had proved difficult in the second quarter. Interim profits were further affected by a £367,000 loss relating to a disposal. Earnings were 1.69p a share, down from 5.73p, and the interim dividend is held at 1.3p. The company has promised to maintain the final dividend.

Keller increases

KELLER GROUP, the international ground engineering company, achieved a 6 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £4.6 million in the half-year to the end of June, with a strong performance in Britain and America helping to offset the adverse impact of extreme winter weather conditions in central Europe. The company's earnings increased by 7 per cent to 4.7p a share. The interim dividend, payable as foreign income, rises 11 per cent to 1.95p a share.

EBRD commits more

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development increased its operational commitments during the first half of this year by signing 33 projects worth 774 million euros (about £634 million), an increase of 30 per cent over the first half of last year. Half went to the former Soviet Union and half of those to Russia alone. Increases in banking operations, including income from equity investments and treasury operations, resulted in an operating profit of 45 million euros before provisions, up from 22.98 million euros.

Whitecross out of red

WHITECROSS GROUP, the chain of dental practices whose shares were floated on the Alternative Investment Market in May, earned pre-tax profits of £5,000 in the half year to June 30, compared with losses of £114,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 0.13p a share (3p loss). There is no dividend, as stated in the flotation prospectus. The company said that it was likely to incur a loss for the full year, reflecting the cost of opening two practices and the customary reduction in trading over Christmas.

Freepages expands

FREEPAGES, the provider of telephone directory services, is acquiring a 45.6 per cent interest in TDS Marketing Group, a database management company, for an initial consideration of just over £3 million in cash and shares. A further deferred profit-related consideration, payable through the issue of up to 1.48 million shares, has been agreed. Freepages has an option to acquire the outstanding 54.4 per cent of TDS before January 31, 2001. Freepages is also raising £5 million through a share placing. The shares closed up 1½p yesterday, at 37p.

Pegasus bid advice

PEGASUS GROUP, the accounting software company that is the target of a £27 million takeover bid by Sage Group, has again advised shareholders to reject this week's unsolicited offer. Yesterday the company reported a rise in profits to £51,000 before tax from £172,000 in the six months to June 30. Earnings improved to 6.5p a share from 18p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2p, payable October 25. The company said new products had started to generate substantial incremental revenues at high margins.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Sells	Sells	Sells	Sells
Australia \$	17.20	Malta	0.541
Austria Sch	13.20	Netherlands Gld	2.735
Belgium Fr	90.43	New Zealand \$	2.40
Canada \$	2.238	Norway Kr	10.63
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748	Portugal Esc	207.50
Denmark Kr	6.57	S Africa Rd	7.61
Finland Mk	7.56	Spain Ptas	201.50
France Fr	6.57	Sweden Kr	10.63
Germany Dr	2.46	Switzerland Fr	1.93
Greece Dr	384	Turkey Lira	129.00
Hong Kong \$	12.69	USA \$	1.628
Iceland	115		
Ireland Pt	1.01		
Israel She	4.83		
Italy Lira	2470		
Japan Yen	163.00		

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Back to school in style — £30,000 in prizes to be won

This is your last chance to take part in our fabulous back to school competitions. There are prizes worth a total of £30,000 to be won. For the main prize, *The Times*, in association with Chrysler, gives you the opportunity to win a fantastic Jeep Cherokee worth £19,550.

What better way to start the new term than to ferry the children in wheels like this?

The Cherokee is compact and easy to drive. Its power-assisted steering and tight turning circle help to make light work of heavy traffic and the jams outside the school gates. It has good all-round visibility through the tinted windows for every member of the family and standard equipment includes a four-speaker Panasonic stereo radio cassette player with CD autochanger controls.

Every Jeep Cherokee is equipped with a state-of-the-art transmission system allowing you to shift into 4-wheel drive by simply pulling a lever without stopping. So when you are not taking the children to school you can drive the family off the beaten track for weekend and holiday adventures.



HOW TO ENTER

Call our competition hotline below with your answer this question:

Who was the father of Pocahontas?

a) Powhatan b) Sitting Bull

(Correct answer according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.)

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received before midnight on the closing date, Thursday, September 12, 1996. You can enter as many times as you like. Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL 0891 665 593

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times

Win one of 250 CD-Roms each worth £19.99



The Times, in association with international publisher Marshall Cavendish, gives you the chance to win a version of *Swan Lake* on CD-Rom. The disc, based on Marshall Cavendish's best-selling partwork series *The Magical Music Box*, tells the story of *Swan Lake* and uses Tchaikovsky's famous composition to teach children aged six and upwards about music. The disc set, launched next week, comes with a descant recorder and is worth £19.99. We have 250 to give away as prizes worth nearly £5,000. Packed with video clips, photographs and audio excerpts, children can learn to read and play music, compose or click onto musical instruments for demonstrations of their sound and watch musicians play.

HOW TO ENTER Complete the form below, including your answer to the question, and post it to the given address to arrive by Thursday, September 12, 1996.

THE TIMES SWAN LAKE COMPETITION

Send your entries to: *The Times Swan Lake Competition*, Marshall Cavendish Multimedia, Freepost, PO Box 1, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 4BR. Closing date September 12, 1996.

What is the correct term for a baby swan?

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms First name
Surname
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If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from *The Times* or companies carefully selected by *Times Newspapers Limited* please tick this box

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Reckitt & further

Hambro reins estate agency loss

US retailer

□ Banking on lessons from the colonies □ No room for City in hotel deal □ The pay point that misses Simpson

Chips with everything

□ BRITAIN hands back Hong Kong to China next July. And, for the merchant banking community of London, the date can't arrive too quickly. For nearly a century the colony was a great source of income, wealth and talent. Now it is becoming a pain in the neck.

While Robert Fleming learns the folly of not keeping a close enough grip on its business interests in Hong Kong, Hambros is learning that Hong Kong will expose the folly of not keeping a grip on the businesses over here. The purchase of a 3 per cent in the venerable merchant bank by Jim Mellon's Regent Pacific has put a fire under Hambros just at the time when chief executive Sir Chips Keswick, of the venerable Hong Kong family, thought he was dousing down the flames that were lapping round Hambros' ears a year ago.

Sir Chips describes Mellon's attack on the bank as gratuitously rude. But even he would admit that many of the criticisms — lack of focus, underperforming businesses et al — are just the things he is trying to address in the strategic review Hambros announced last November by Sir Chips and Michael Sorkin, Hambros' arch dealmaker now drafted in to weave his magic at the bank. The corporate finance team, once described as an

unhappy marriage of Etonians and Estonians, has been strengthened. The banking business has been short of the low grade lending, which should never have been taken on in the first place. The private banking side is going from strength to strength. And the fund management side? Well Sir Chips is just getting round to that.

However, the fact that he would not agree to Mellon's point on the "beautifully decorated" board is not to Sir Chips' credit. What role does the former private secretary to Prince Charles have in a modern merchant bank?

Mellon believes one of three things will happen. Firstly Hambros will pull its socks up, buoyed by the recovery in the housing market bringing strong returns from Hambro Countrywide. Then Regent will make a profit from the recovery in the shares and sell out. Or Hambros will not pull itself out of the mire. Then Mellon will either contact other shareholders and move to oust the management or increase its stake to a point when it can deliver a strategic holding to a

potential bidder. What is clear is Hambros is currently worth a great deal less than its potential. Mellon argues that Sir Chips et al got Hambros into this mess and so are not the people to sort the business out.

What Mellon may not understand is that Hambros is a gloriously opportunistic bank — a merchant bank in the way merchant banks were 50 years ago and some American banks are now. It needs to be more professional in its approach but it also needs to be independent. If Mellon's ultimate goal is to tempt a bidder for Hambros, then he is making a mistake.

Ladbroke checks into the Hilton

□ IT may not have been the first thing on Gerry Robinson's mind back in those dark days last November as he plotted the downfall of Forte, but the Granada chief really should take some credit for reviving the whole hotel sector.

Until Granada arrived with its £3.8 billion bid, the hospitality

PENNINGTON



business was practically moribund. Management was dominated by second generation family figures such as Sir Rocco Forte and, in the US, Barron Hilton, who generally compared unfavourably with their "legendary" fathers.

Since Granada won its battle, prices and activity have shot up, while City institutions have been handed large quantities of cash needing a new home.

Ladbroke has finally caught the sector bug and struck a clever deal with the Hilton Hotel Corporation that keeps the City out.

The link-up falls short of a merger, with its inevitable large fees and tax costs, but provides enough potential uplift to satisfy

critics of both companies — for the time being.

The idea of reuniting the Hilton brand is almost as old as the split itself (which dates back to the mid 1960s). The absurdity of not being able to recommend US customers to Hilton hotels in the rest of the world or even to allow them to earn loyalty points abroad was always apparent. But it was only when Barron Hilton finally decided to step down and concentrate on pastimes such as fishing in Alaska that progress was finally made under Steve Bollenbach, HHC's new highly rated chief executive. Mr Hilton had acquired a reputation for erratic behaviour during his thirty-something years in charge — understandable if you have to spend ten years retrieving your inheritance from the clutches of a nunnery and for a time had to call Zsa Zsa Gabor "mother".

For Ladbroke, the deal buys time. But it will have to work hard to put its betting operations, which received a one-off boost from the European Football Championships, in order. One can't help wondering just

how long the ambitious Mr Bollenbach will be content to allow Ladbroke to hang on to HHC's coat-tails?

Time to tell GEC about Greenbury?

□ IF George Simpson wants to convince the City that GEC is anything but a dinosaur existing in the land that Greenbury forgot, then he is off to a bad start. To stir up a shareholder revolt before you have even put your feet under the desk when you are seen as the new broom takes some achieving.

The way GEC has handled the announcement of Simpson's £10 million pay package shows why Lord Weinstock and his company are so irrationally hated by the City. They come over as arrogant and uncommunicative, grudgingly telling the market barely more than the minimum required. To hear fund managers talking about GEC, one would think the company underperformed the market consistently, when quite the opposite is true.

To not put strict performance criteria into Simpson's incentive package is just asking for trouble. While threats from some investors to vote against Simpson's appointment look pretty empty (after all, do they want another succession battle at GEC?), the pay plan has stirred up a hornet's nest.

It breaches the Association of British Insurers guidelines, angers PIRC and has even the meekest of investors up in arms.

Simpson could enjoy a public relations coup. "I accept strict targets for the company" he can say, knowing that even if he does nothing to GEC it will probably meet them. The City will then see him as a breath of fresh air, welcome a new spirit of openness and Simpson can blame the bad communication on Arnie Weinstock.

Trial by trusts

□ AS Robert Fleming smarts at fines imposed on it, Save & Prosper and Jardine Fleming, it should remember that a Fleming man, Charles Nunnely, chaired Inro throughout the inquiry. Critics of self-regulation say it puts poachers in charge of the trout streams. But Fleming's humiliation looks like swift, effective justice. The real punishment will come if investors cash in S&P unit trusts as a result.



Alan Dalby, left, chairman, and Vernon Sankey are aiming to expand in emerging markets on the back of growth in the ranks of the middle classes

Reckitt & Colman forecasts further savings from L&F

By FRASER NELSON AND PAUL CROUGHTON

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products group, has made savings of £30 million after pooling its resources with L&F Household Products, the US cleaning products business that it bought for £1 billion last year.

Returning interim results for the six months to June 29, the group said further savings of £10 million would be delivered by the year end, on the completion of its £83 million integration programme.

The group is attempting to run its much expanded US operations with the same number of workers, which has

meant shutting four of its eight factories in North America and shedding 1,500 jobs. It then plans to pool resources on a global basis, but said savings from this next stage would not be felt for some time.

In the first half, sales were hit by lacklustre results from Europe as group turnover rose just 4 per cent, to £1.16 billion. Pre-tax profit rose 10 per cent, from £150 million to £165 million. In North America, sales grew less than 1 per cent, to £374 million. But sharply improved margins, up from 10.6 per cent to 14.2 per cent,

lifted North American operating profits to £53.2 million (£39.3 million).

Reckitt & Colman made £432 million from selling a series of food brands, including Colman's mustard, to pay for the acquisition. L&F products have added names such as Lysol, the US detergent, to the company's existing stable of household names, including Lemsip, Brasso and Mr Sheen.

The company is also expanding in emerging markets, such as India and Latin America, where the growth of the middle classes has created

strong demand for established brand names.

Vernon Sankey, chief executive, said emerging markets were delivering strong growth. "We have found that people who have little money to spend will spend it very wisely, on brands they can trust," he said.

Sales to Latin America, Australasia and Africa grew by 9 per cent to £383 million in the half-year, while sales to Europe edged up only 3 per cent, to £402 million. Gearing dropped from 52 per cent to 37 per cent as the group generated a cash inflow of £42.3

million against an outflow of £15.2 million last time.

Analysts were sceptical about Reckitt's overall growth potential. UBS stuck to its year-end pre-tax profit forecast of £305 million, which would mark a 7 per cent rise over 1995, before exceptional.

The company also hinted that it may rethink its dividend policy to provide greater cover. Fully diluted earnings rose from 22.9p to 25.7p a share, allowing an increased interim dividend of 7.95p (7.35p), payable on January 7.

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Slough awaits council £10m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

WELWYN Hatfield District Council is expected to pay £10 million to Slough Estates, the property company, by the end of next month — in spite of continuing to fight a High Court ruling awarding damages of £49 million against the council.

Although the money is refundable if Welwyn wins its appeal, a judge has ruled that Welwyn should pay part of the sum, awarded after the High Court found that Welwyn misled Slough Estates over a tenant-mix agreement with a rival shopping development. Slough spent £77 million developing the Howard Centre, but its value has tumbled to £27 million since rules governing the tenancy mix were relaxed for the rival.

Slough lifted half-year profits by 14 per cent, to £37.4 million. The interim dividend rises 5 per cent, to 3.25p, due on September 17.

Property shares rose after Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman, said Slough was well placed to gain from strong demand.

Weak demand from Europe brakes T&N

By CARL MORTIMER

A SHARP cut in inventories by European car manufacturers has hit T&N, the motor components group, causing a fall in profits and margins in the first half of the year. The company gave warning that demand in mainland Europe remained weak as it reported a decline in operating profit from £120 million to £100 million in the six months to June 30.

Sir Colin Hope, chairman, described conditions in Europe as "bumping along" but insisted that the decline in profit margins would be temporary, while the company continued to reduce investment in working capital. T&N's return on sales fell from 11.3 per cent to 9.5 per cent because of redundancy costs and a £7 million profit reduction from stocktaking.

The motor components group could face an extra £30 million provision for asbestos-related injury claims if T&N falls in its appeal to the US Supreme Court to restore the Georgine Settlement procedure. The company is seeking to overturn a US circuit court ruling which struck down an

injunction compelling claimants to use an administrative procedure to settle claims for asbestos injuries. A decision on its right to appeal is due in October. Failure would double the annual £50 million provision.

Sir Colin confirmed that the company is exploring new avenues to ringfence its asbestos liabilities, including insurance. He indicated that the insurance industry's attitude to asbestos was changing.

T&N is more optimistic over its legal battle with the German cartel office, where it is fighting a ruling against its acquisition of Kolbenschmidt, the piston manufacturer. Sir Colin said circumstances had changed as the main complainant had recently tied up with a piston ring manufacturer.

After exceptional items and a £25 million asbestos charge, T&N's pre-tax profit for the half-year was £58 million, down from £73 million. The company is maintaining the interim dividend at 3p after earnings of 6.5p a share (8.3p).

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Hambro reins back estate agency losses

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

HAMBRO COUNTRYWIDE appears close to completing the turnaround of the loss-making estate agency chain that it bought for £1 from Nationwide two years ago.

The group has reduced its half-year, pre-tax loss on estate agency and financial services business to £643,000, from £13 million.

Christopher Sporborg, group chairman, unveiled pre-tax profits of £10.5 million for the six months to June 30, compared with a loss of £5.8 million for the same period last year. He said he hoped the

final dividend would be double the interim, which was 0.5p per share net. Earnings per share were 2.41p, compared with a 1995 half-year loss per share of 1.92p.

Harry Hill, managing director, said: "We have achieved this improvement not out of a rampant housing market... but in a difficult market." Transactions in July were the second highest since 1994 and he expected the recovery to be "sustained or increased as the year goes by".

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Christopher Sporborg, front, with Harry Hill yesterday

Hartstone plans final cash call

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

HARTSTONE GROUP, the hosiery and leather goods company, plans to complete its refinancing with a £15.4 million placing and open offer.

It will use the proceeds to replace a £9.7 million bridging facility, strengthen the company's balance sheet and provide additional working capital.

The directors of the company, which ran into financial trouble in 1993, have said they will apply for their full entitlement. The 8 per cent cumulative convertible redeemable preference shares, at £1 each, have all been conditionally

placed with institutional and other investors. Shareholders will vote on the placement and offer on September 23.

The open offer is one preference share for every 20 ordinary shares held.

Shaun Dowling, chairman, said: "This represents the one piece left in the jigsaw for the group to complete its refinancing and to start developing the business for the future." Etienne Aigner in the US and Aznar in Spain, two main divisions, are performing well, the company said. Hartstone shares rose 14p to 124p yesterday.

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To Shareholders of Lonrho Plc

PRINCESS/METROPOLE FLOAT BY LONRHO Plc

It's time for yet another EGM at Lonrho.

If you've got nothing better to do, why not read my circular?

If you have got something better to do, then leave it all to the management who brought you the Lonrho Platinum/Impala merger. Remember that?

Tim Rowland

R. W. ROWLAND

Copies of the circular being sent to Lonrho shareholders by R W Rowland may be obtained by contacting him at:

Hedder Wharf, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5JN
Tel: 01628 525331 Fax: 01628 526148

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

THE US tobacco industry has received another slap in the face with a decision by Target, the third-largest discount store chain in the country, to stop selling cigarettes. Many analysts believe that other stores may follow, worried by the growing public feeling against smoking and the rising expense of cigarette retailing.

Target's move is the first significant success in President Clinton's drive to

stop the sale of tobacco to minors. The store chain said the cost of complying with new laws to keep cigarettes out of the hands of young people made the business barely profitable.

Target's annual sales of cigarettes amount to about \$100 million, a fraction of its annual turnover of \$15.8 billion. It said its profit from cigarette sales had sunk so low in recent years that its results would hardly be affected by pulling out of tobacco.

Wal-Mart Stores and K mart, the two largest discount retailers, said

they had no plans to stop selling cigarettes. Target has a policy of being "family friendly" and does not, for example, sell Playboy magazine or toy guns. In 1992, however, it was found by government investigators to be one of the easiest places for teenagers to buy or steal cigarettes, and several of its stores were fined. One problem was that checkout staff did not take the time to check the identification of cigarette buyers for their ages.

Although discount store chains are only one type of retail outlet for

tobacco, Target's move could be followed by drugstore chains that sell more cigarettes. Several chains are said to be considering the move as profits from selling tobacco slip.

Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT Industries, yesterday wrote to shareholders in an attempt to calm fears over the ongoing legal and regulatory battles in America. Lord Cairns said the tobacco industry remained confident that it would win all pending smoking-related damages cases, including, on appeal, the recent Grady case.

Robert Miller on ramifications of the Imro and Hong Kong investigations

Public humiliation of the proud House of Fleming

The public humiliation of the venerable House of Fleming, where John Manser is group chief executive, could not be more complete. No City money manager likes to have any part of their investment empire held up for scrutiny as a poor example of how to carry on a business. But the £700,000 of fines, expulsions and public reprimands handed down yesterday on Jardine Fleming, a joint 50/50 venture with Jardine Matheson and three companies in the Robert Fleming group, by watchdogs in Hong Kong and London did just that — and possibly more.

To be fined for administrative mistakes involving personal equity plans as Save & Prosper, part of Robert Fleming's UK unit trust and credit card operation was yesterday, is not unusual these days. Even the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), headed by Charles Nunneley, admits that this is an extremely complex area, but one that it is nevertheless determined to police with vigour.

The sequence, starting at the top of the disciplinary pile, goes like this: Imro yesterday fined Jardine Fleming Asset Management (JFAM) £400,000 and has terminated its authorisation to conduct business. JFAM was authorised by Imro in London, while another connected company, Jardine Fleming Investment Management (JFIM), is regulated by the SFC in Hong Kong. The three other Imro regulated companies, each fined £100,000 yesterday, were the London-based, Fleming Investment Management, Fleming Investment Trust Management and Save & Prosper Securities.

What happened was that JFAM delegated the task of managing some £810 million to JFIM, as did the three London-based Fleming companies which handed over some £1.2 billion. Enter Colin Armstrong, a former senior fund manager



John Manser, Fleming's group chief executive

and director of JFIM who joined the group as a junior fund manager in the early 1980s and worked in various posts, including the Tokyo office, before moving to Hong Kong in the early 1990s. The focus of the Imro and SFC investigations were for the period between 1993 and 1995.

The SFC inquiry established that Mr Armstrong, 42, who has now left the company and returned to the UK, engaged in the late allocation of shares and other investments after changes in the price of the instruments traded had occurred. In other words, if the price went up he would take the profit for himself, while if it went against him the loss was passed onto the investor.



Colin Armstrong: late allocation of shares



Charles Nunneley is policing a complex area



Return from the Hill, a painting in the Flemings art collection in the City

JFIM has agreed to pay compensation totalling some £12 million to the Jardine Fleming Pacific Securities Trust, an authorised Hong Kong unit trust and the Fleming Pacific Fund, a sub-fund of the Luxembourg-based Fleming Flagship fund.

SFC investigators established a pattern of preferential late allocation in Mr Armstrong's trading, particularly in respect of Japanese exchange traded options. This, said the SFC, was reflected in allocations to the former fund managers personal account and allowed him to make "substantial" profits. These, however, have subsequently been repaid.

At an early stage of the joint operation, investigators became so concerned that other fund managers within the Hong Kong office might be trading for personal gain that KPMG, the accountant, was appointed to inquire further. But KPMG concluded that Mr Armstrong acted alone. In a separate move earlier this year four traders from the broking division of Jardine Fleming left the company also over breaches of internal account rules. It is understood that the four held external trading accounts, a practice now banned by Jardine Fleming.

What irked the watchdogs in London and Hong Kong particularly was that had the proper monitoring and compliance procedures been in place, Mr Armstrong's unauthorised trading activities would have been spotted years earlier. Imro said yesterday: "When JFAM became

aware of the failings of JFIM in December 1993, it failed to inform Imro that investment business had been delegated to a firm which had dealing and compliance procedures which did not meet Imro standards. In 1994 it also suggested to Imro that there were no significant concerns about compliance."

The watchdog continued: "In addition, when it subsequently lodged a Statement of Representation with Imro in 1994, the failings were not disclosed, despite JFAM being aware that the failings outlined remained uncorrected. However, disclosure of some failings was made in the 1995 Statement of Representation, leading to the investigation."

As a result of these failings Robert Thomas, former chief executive of both JFAM and JFIM, has accepted that he bore the ultimate responsibility for the compliance failings in the companies and has agreed to the termination of his regulatory registration. Mr Thomas, who is in his late 50s, has returned to London, where he is a director of Jardine Fleming Holdings with a brief to look at business developments.

Companies in the Robert Fleming and Jardine Fleming group say they have considerably enhanced their internal monitoring and compliance systems and personnel. Mark White, formerly investment director of Save & Prosper, was dispatched to Hong Kong in April to become chief operating officer of Jardine Fleming. Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, will assist in the creation of a new and comprehensive procedures manual.

But from a broader business perspective there is again speculation over how long Flemings can remain a private merchant bank with numerous add-on functions. In a relatively short time it has moved from being a respected fund manager with a stable of successful investment trusts to being a securities operation, a corporate financier and much more besides.

Earlier this summer Bill Harrison left Robert Fleming after building a successful corporate finance division to join BZW. This was a blow in a significant area.

As John Tyce, bank analyst at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, points out, Robert Fleming shares are held largely by the Fleming family, with a chunk in the hands of staff. With most independent now fallen to the big battalions, Robert Fleming becomes more isolated. What it has is a fine fund management business, despite mediocre performance by S&P's unit trust stable. If the family waits too long, the value of their shares may fall considerably. By selling now, or setting the process in motion, they could exit with a very handsome payoff — and the most natural acquirer could be Jardine Matheson itself.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Rapid decision

IT WAS while white-water rafting in America that Peter George, Ladbroke chief executive, and Stephen Bollenbach, former Disney boss and head of Hilton Hotels Corporation, secured yesterday's deal to reunite the two companies. Bollenbach and George were on a trip with their wives, along the Snake River in Idaho, when the decision to tie-up Ladbroke and HHC was made.

Oversight

LOOKING down on Jürgen Schrempf, Daimler's chief executive, at yesterday's results briefing was an unexpected guest. Herr Schrempf, nicknamed "the jovial brute", was seated before a large mock-up green wall, emblazoned with Daimler's logo, at Trinity House, London. Peering over, however, was Sir Winston Churchill, suspended in a large wooden frame, looking suitably bemused to be at a meeting of the German group.

Remote control

MICROSOFT is keeping a close eye on the builders working on its new £65 million headquarters on a 33-acre site in Reading. The US software giant, headed by Bill Gates, has installed a video camera to take snaps of the builders every five minutes. The images are fed via a modem link into the Microsoft internal communication system, enabling project managers and curious staff to call up the industrious scenes from their desktop computers.

Taxing letter

MARTIN ROGERS, consultant and author of this month's champagne-winning letter in *NatWest's* house magazine, takes staff to task for not claiming their tax allowance for cleaning their corporate uniforms, and for risking the wrath of the Inland Revenue for failing to keep accurate tax records. He adds: "Perhaps I should be seeking commission!"

MORAG PRESTON

Turnround as Shorts flies in face of political turmoil to a better future

For some employees at Shorts of Belfast the journey to work is also a journey across the political divide that has paralysed their city and country. Every morning they travel from Catholic West Belfast to the aircraft maker's plant in Protestant East Belfast.

Many are making the journey through Belfast's cordoned-off city centre and the housing estates dominated by the Ulster Volunteer Force. Shorts employs 15 per cent Catholics and is seeking to increase this number.

The company's equal opportunities programme, which seeks to bring Protestant and Catholic workers together as much as possible, has succeeded, while the terrorists and their attacks on Shorts itself failed. As recently as 1990 the plant in East Belfast was the target of IRA bombs.

Today, on the second anniversary of the IRA ceasefire, Shorts is seen as one of the Province's last pillars of stability and has become a symbol for religious tolerance.

It finances a number of cross-community educational and charitable organisations. It employs 7,000 people in Northern Ireland and through its network of suppliers and sub-contractors another 2,000 jobs are dependent on it. Shorts is the Province's largest manufacturer, generating 10 per cent of GDP.

A UK aerospace analyst said: "The crucial thing to remember is that should anything happen to Shorts, it would have a huge economic and political impact on Northern Ireland. Shorts has been a pillar of stability for the economy — and if the pillar started crumbling it would have shattering repercussions."

Fortunately for Northern Ireland the company is in good health. Last year profits grew by 10 per cent to £34 million and turnover saw an increase from £353 million to £391 million.

Throughout the 1980s, the company was building up more losses than profits. The turnround at Shorts began with the 1989 privatisation of

Oliver August on a journey to success by Northern Ireland's biggest manufacturer



Bombardier's business jet is a new source of work for Shorts and the workforce could double

the state-owned aircraft maker, which also holds the title of being the oldest established aircraft maker in the world. To its rescue came what must be the youngest major player in aviation manufacture.

In only ten years, the Canadian Bombardier Aerospace group developed into the world's fourth-largest builder of civil aircraft. The group is owned, significantly, by the Catholic Beaudoin family who were untroubled by the Protestant heritage of Shorts.

Shorts became the fourth aircraft manufacturer on its books, along with Canadair, Learjet and de Havilland. Already before the arrival of Shorts the group had excelled at "internal partnerships". But Bombardier's partnerships provided much more. Because all participating companies were responsible ultimately to the same owner, all the usual problems of rivalry and failure to communicate could be kept to a minimum.

More than anything else Shorts needed large-scale investments in new technology. When Bombardier executives came to view the sprawling complex of manufacturing halls before the privatisation they were astonished that Shorts was building modern aircraft with tools dating back to the 1930s.

Ironically, when privatisation came, the Government finally had to pay up for years of neglect. To get the ailing company off its books as quickly as possible the taxpayer wrote off £400 million in debts and sweetened the deal with another £450 million for investment.

Bombardier took up the challenge with a revamp both inside the company and its suppliers. New precision tools were complemented by modern management and production techniques. Of its 107 sub-contractors at the time of privatisation only a dozen remain.

After seven years in the private sector, Shorts is now a world-class manufacturer. But its focus remains on the work inside the Bombardier group.

Earlier this week Bombardier unveiled the latest addition to its fleet of aircraft. The Global Express is a private nine-seat business jet with a difference. It is a long-range plane, said to be the first small jet to be able to fly New York-Tokyo non-stop. To allow business executives to use their time on the aircraft productively, the Global Express has a conference room and a range of desk and office facilities, as well as sleeping quarters. Bombardier already has around 50 orders for the \$32 million plane and the first two years' output is already sold.

Shorts is responsible for the aircraft's all-composite horizontal stabiliser. In addition, the company also produces the forward fuselage, the nose and the main landing gear doors. At the moment the Global

Express production lines in Belfast are only proceeding very slowly but once the aircraft is in commercial production in about 18 months, the workforce involved should swell from the present 300 to about 750.

Although the company derives £130 million from Bombardier sales out of a total of £430 million, it also has work on all Boeing commercial airliner programmes, the Lockheed C-130 transport plane and soon the Westland Apache attack helicopter.

Since privatisation, Shorts has also added new divisions. In 1993, Shorts and Thompson-CSF formed Shorts Missile Systems. The joint venture builds short-range air defence systems such as the Starburst missiles first deployed in the Gulf War.

The fastest growing part of the company is the aviation support division, which combines aircraft maintenance with airfield facilities management. Turnover for the division grew from £4 million in 1992 to £100 million last year through the acquisition of another aviation support company which complements Shorts contracts in the UK and the US with extensive work in the Middle East.

All was extremely well for Shorts until news in January that Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker and one of the company's major partners, was about to falter. Days before Shorts had received an order for seven wing sets for the Fokker 70, which now look likely to be the last Fokker parts ever to be built in Belfast, or anywhere else.

Fokker planes represented a piece of 20th-century history. But all the history and nostalgia in the world could not save Fokker, or the 700 jobs at Shorts dependent on it. Fokker's last hope is that Samsung, the Korean industrial giant, will buy the company. If not, then the remaining 300 Shorts employees working on the seven Fokker 70 wing sets will also be made redundant.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 1st SEPTEMBER 1996

DISCOUNTED SAVINGS	BASIC RATE		INTEREST RATE		FURNISHING ACCESS		GROSS RATE		NET RATE		GROSS C.A.R.	
Amount Saved	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	Access Fee	Monthly Savings	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.	NET C.A.R.
£50,000+	4.00	3.30	3.88	3.88	£10.00	£1.00	3.30	2.64	3.00	2.40	-	-
£25,000+	5.00	3.04	3.70	3.46	£5.00	£1.00	3.00	2.00	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	5.00	2.84	3.50	3.26	£2.50	£1.00	3.00	1.84	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	5.00	2.54	3.20	3.00	£1.00	£1.00	3.00	0.40	-	-	-	-
FURNISHING FEE												
Amount Saved	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	Access Fee	Monthly Savings <th>GROSS RATE</th> <th>NET RATE</th> <th>GROSS RATE</th> <th>NET RATE</th> <th>GROSS C.A.R.</th> <th>NET C.A.R.</th>	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.	NET C.A.R.
£100,000+	5.40	4.32	-	-	£10.00	£1.00	4.32	4.22	5.40	-	-	-
£50,000+	5.00	4.00	-	-	£5.00	£1.00	4.00	3.90	5.00	-	-	-
£25,000+	5.00	3.70	-	-	£2.50	£1.00	4.00	3.60	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	5.00	3.50	-	-	£1.00	£1.00	4.12	3.20	4.20	-	-	-
£5,000+	5.00	3.20	-	-	£0.50	£1.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	-	-	-
YENSA (Platinum) Insurance												
Amount Saved	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	Access Fee	Monthly Savings <th>GROSS RATE</th> <th>NET RATE</th> <th>GROSS RATE</th> <th>NET RATE</th> <th>GROSS C.A.R.</th> <th>NET C.A.R.</th>	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.	NET C.A.R.
£100,000+	5.40	4.32	-	-	£10.00	£1.00	4.32	4.22	5.40	-	-	-
£50,000+	5.00	4.00	-	-	£5.00	£1.00	4.00	3.90	5.00	-	-	-
£25,000+	5.00	3.70	-	-	£2.50	£1.00	4.00	3.60	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	5.00	3.50	-	-	£1.00	£1.00	4.12	3.20	4.20	-	-	-
£5,000+	5.00	3.20	-	-	£0.50	£1.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	-	-	-
YENSA (Special Insurance)												
Amount Saved	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	Access Fee	Monthly Savings <th>GROSS RATE</th> <th>NET RATE</th> <th>GROSS RATE</th> <th>NET RATE</th> <th>GROSS C.A.R.</th> <th>NET C.A.R.</th>	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R.	NET C.A.R.
£100,000+	5.40	4.32	-	-	£10.00	£1.00	4.32	4.22	5.40	-	-	-
£50,000+	5.00	4.00	-	-	£5.00	£1.00	4.00	3.90	5.00	-	-	-
£25,000+	5.00	3.70	-	-	£2.50	£1.00	4.00	3.60	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	5.00	3.50	-	-	£1.00	£1.00	4.12	3.20	4.20	-	-	-
£5,000+	5.00	3.20	-	-	£0.50	£1.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	-	-	-

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THEATRE 1

A Chorus Line kicks into the regions for the first time — in a sizzling Derby production

THEATRE 2

Beatrix, the new biographical play at Chichester, proves to be a triumph of tweed over content

THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE

The Joffrey Ballet go all tacky with **Billboards**, set to the songs of Prince

MUSIC

Claudio Abbado brings the Berlin Philharmonic to the Proms, but their Brahms takes a while to ignite

THEATRE: Broadway razzmatazz in Derby; biographical boredom — despite Patricia Routledge — in Chichester

Let's do the big show right here

This knocks the spots off most regional productions of big musicals. Maybe a rival has emerged for the Leicester Haymarket, long known as the theatre that stages Broadway hits most persuasively in Britain. The director, Mark Clements, has certainly done Derby Playhouse proud, celebrating his venue's 21st anniversary with this tightly drilled, charismatic show.

It is, remarkably enough, the first time that Michael Bennett's highly successful 1970s musical about a bunch of dancers competing in a Broadway audition (like the kids from *Fame*, only further down the line), has been staged outside London. It was last seen there more than a decade ago.

Clements' production, with only a little tweaking and Lycra, places the action in the present day. When asked to confess their ages, the 18 dancers declare appropriate dates of birth as they line up for inspection. They are nervously eager or playing it cool, but all praying they will be the chosen ones as the bigshot director makes his demands from the dark auditorium.

In this role, David James Wastler's Zach seems to be a no-messing tough taskmaster, sometimes mean. But of course he is really

only playing God: picking on dancers, making them rake through painful memories, in order to mould them into bigger, better performers.

Sometimes this show is gratingly corny. But Clements, aided by Chris Ellis's intricately shifting lighting, offers arresting visuals, opening with misty gauzes and

A Chorus Line Derby Playhouse

mirrors which create the illusion of a cast of hundreds. The actors are a multitalented ensemble, too, and Francesca Whitburn's choreography is particularly tight.

Sean Kingsley's Mike, the seemingly slouchy Italian-American with his baseball cap on backwards and one eyebrow cocked, bursts into a storming jive'n'rap routine, legs splaying, banging the floor on his tiptoes, singing *I Can Do That*. Tee Jay's Richie is also a groovy mover, walking on air with the punctuated funkiness of Michael Jackson.

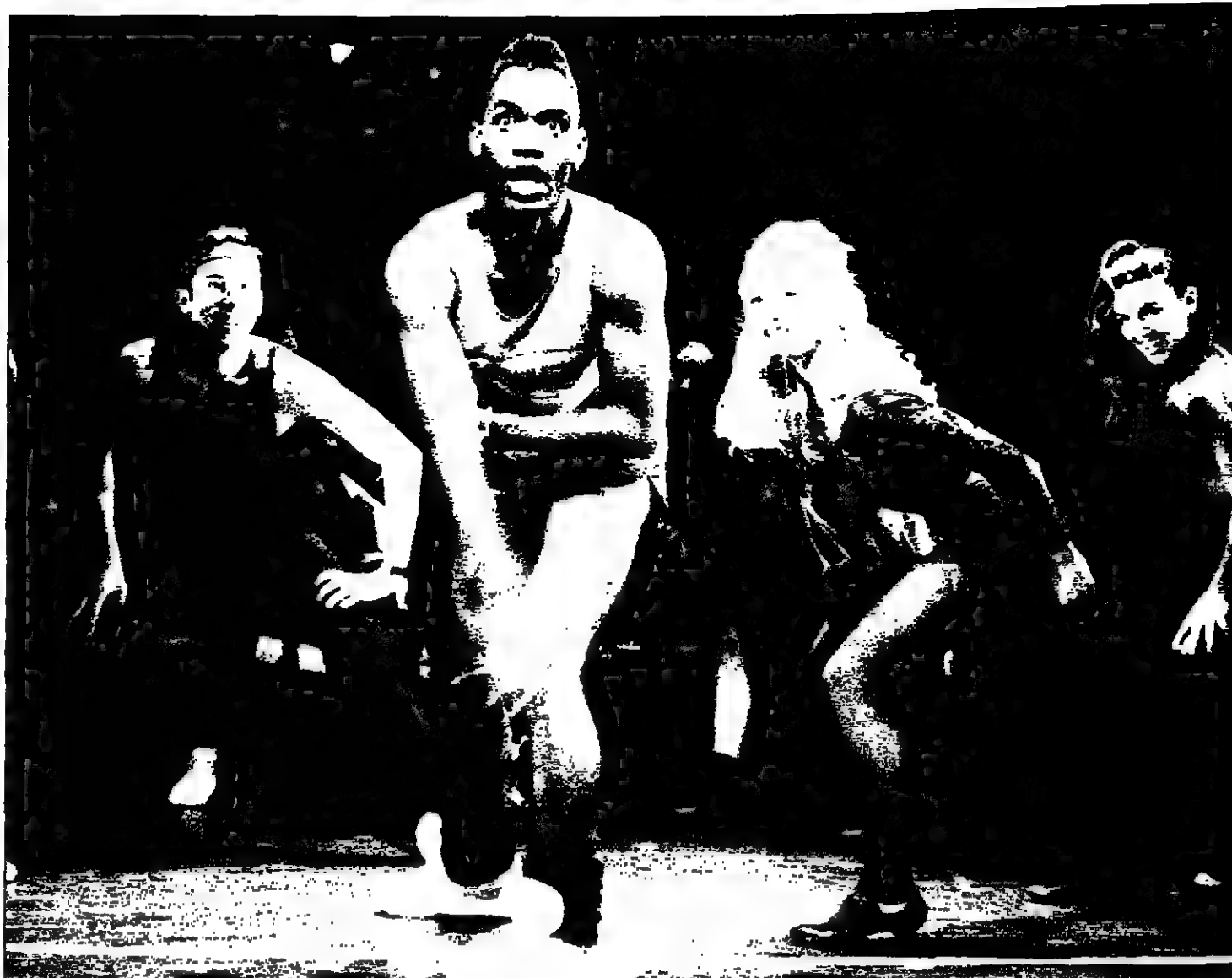
Two rather nitpicking criticisms: some of the cast are not as spot-on when singing solo, and that slight raucousness backed up with

thumping drums can be tiring. I would also say that many of Marvin Hamlisch's tunes are forgettable, even if he varies the mood neatly — rock'n'roll one minute, macabre cabaret the next.

Banalities creep into the book and lyrics, too. This you can probably blame on the docu-drama roots of *A Chorus Line*, which sprang from a dancers' discussion weekend in 1974. Certainly there is humour. Diana (Cina Lee Lincoln), the Bronx-born Puerto Rican, satirises drama school soul-searching classes. But this chorus line themselves end up sounding like a love-in, harmonising about how they just adore their calling (*What I Did For Love*).

But what the heck. All is forgiven in the finale. Suddenly transported from the bare rehearsal room to a showtime spectacular, the entire company reappears sporting shiny scarlet lamé, descending a silver staircase to take bows. They raise their sequined toppers as one, reflected from above in tilting mirrors and encircled by flashing, starchy lights. It is a transcendently glitzy goodbye wave. I would not be surprised to see this company high-kicking its way into the West End.

KATE BASSETT



Mark Clements' cast get their kicks in a first-rate regional production of Michael Bennett's 1970s show about amateur hoofers

Flopsy, mopsy and rotten tale

Beatrix Chichester

supposed to symbolise the vanity of human effort, which is hardly the case here. If Routledge's Beatrix symbolises anything, it is the decency of tweedy sheep-farmers who write children's books on the side.

The play begins promisingly, with a clap of thunder and the appearance of a huddled figure draped in sack and tarpaulin. Is Mrs Tiggywinkle under there? No, and then again yes. Patricia Routledge's Beatrix emerges with a doughty grunt and proceeds to tell us her life story, but with just about everything odd or disturbing left unexplored. We hear in passing that her mother was "disagreeable" and that her

difficult father would not let her future husband in the house. We learn nothing about the whys and wherefores behind this. Beatrix was, it seems, Mrs Tiggywinkle without the prickles.

Then again, why not? Maybe we are so accustomed to the tendentious, tell-all school of biography that we unreasonably find a sensible and mainly happy life disappointing.

Maybe there is something refreshing in Garland's refusal to investigate the psychopathology of Peter Rabbit or to suggest that Squirrel Nutkin was an acorn-fetishist. Maybe it is comforting to hear a nice woman in an oatmeal coat and skirt describe her

uneventful childhood, or tell how she inadvertently got into writing, or expatiate feelingly on the thrush in Mr Beal's garden next door, or advise us that "a happy marriage is the crown of a woman's life", all to the accompaniment of pretty music and projections of her own book illustrations.

With Routledge in full command first of a brown wig, then of a white wig, and always of the text, it is tempting to think so. After all, she is a marvellous actress, as anyone knows who saw her in that Alan Bennett monologue about the doggedly cheerful cancer victim.

Here she effortlessly radiates pastoral enthusiasm and, when recalling the premature death of a much-loved publisher, even a bit of anguish. But next time would she kindly tackle a richer character? It need not be Phedra or Cleopatra. Jemima Puddleduck would do.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MUSIC: Proms and Edinburgh

Passion overdue

Berlin PO/Abbado

Albert Hall/Radio 3

IF WEDNESDAY'S Prom, the first of two by the Berlin Philharmonic, had begun the way it finished everybody would have gone home happier. For this was an all-Brahms concert — and Brahms without turbulence, fervour or any sense of hard-won victory is hardly Brahms at all.

That, sadly, was what was served up in the First Piano Concerto. Radu Lupu, sagging at the keyboard like a left-over hippie, dabbled at passagework that demands heroic intention. He was prosaic in his phrasing, and diffident where he should have been commanding: in his relationship with the orchestra. His famed introspection served the Adagio better. But this was an interpretation that turned a young man's ardour into middle-aged spread.

That was sad for a huge crowd that had come with high expectations. But matters perked up after the interval, when Claudio Abbado conducted a beautifully styled performance of the First Symphony. True, it was a reading more notable for gorgeous upulence than drama. But that characteristic Berlin sound certainly ravished the ear: a strong, sweet string ensemble, living every phrase to its full

potential: and extrovert woodwind soloists, spinning silver threads across this vast arena. Only the brass seemed off-colour: there were some surprising botched notes. Abbado's interpretation was rather even-keeled until the finale. But after a stunning build-up to that triumphant movement he let the players off the leash. The results were electrifying. For 15 minutes (including two Hungarian Dances, tossed off as encores) we were left in no doubt that we were hearing a great orchestra. But the demonstration came rather late.

Several larger questions formed in my mind. Haven't we heard the Berlin Philharmonic play Brahms and Mahler a lot in London? Indeed, does it ever play anything else? And is that a reflection of our conservative tastes, or of a virtuoso orchestra's unnecessary caution?

RICHARD MORRISON

● This review appeared in later editions yesterday

A way with Haydn

Orch of the 18th Cent/Bruggen Edinburgh

OF ALL the ways of performing Haydn symphonies heard at the Edinburgh Festival in the past few weeks, Frans Bruggen's is perhaps the most attractive. A visible example of Bruggen's Orchestra of the 18th Century's attitude was the bright red uniforms worn by the three percussionists in the Symphony No 100 in the first of two concerts in the Usher Hall. This emphasised the peculiarity of a score written to be performed in London during the Napoleonic Wars. Towards the end of the Allegretto it is dramatically riven by a gruffly warlike trumpet fanfare.

It was a risky performance. The very slow and very quiet interpretation of the slow movement put such a strain on period-instrument intonation that it became a distinctly uncomfortable experience. Unacceptably excessive was the soloist's self-indulgence in the cadenzas: there were more of them than usual; they were too long; and they were unmusical. Zehetmair was rewarded by prolonged cheers. He also provoked the first boos in the Usher Hall this year.

GERALD LARNER



Patricia Routledge as Beatrix Potter in a production that reveals nothing new about the children's author

When I went into Patrick Garland and Judy Taylor's one-woman play at the Minerva, I did not know anything about Beatrix Potter. When I came out I knew rather less. There are, I suppose, more exciting subjects for a two-hour bio than this tweedy lady sheep-farmer who wrote children's books on the side, and seems to have had remarkably ordinary opinions about pretty well everything, but I'm blessed if I can think of any.

Still, the show raises an interesting question. Since when was it compulsory for theatre to be exciting? Beckett's *Happy Days*, in which a jolly-sounding woman jabbars pointlessly while buried first to her waist and then to her neck, is not at all exciting. There were times when Patricia Routledge's Beatrix reminded me of her, buried as she seemed permanently to be in a kitchen in the Lake District and chattering away as she unstoppably did. But then Beckett's Winnie is

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

A private view of China

The Times, in association with the British Museum, invites readers to a private view of *The Mysteries of Ancient China*. Tickets for this stunning exhibition of spectacular new discoveries from China's recently excavated royal tombs and sacrificial pits are £10 each.

There is a choice of three evenings. Tuesday, September 17, Tuesday, September 24 or Monday, September 30 from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Mysteries of Ancient China is the first major Chinese exhibition in London for 20 years. The exhibition's extraordinary bronze human sculptures were laid in sacrificial pits over 3000 years ago.

Also on display are a wealth of objects from the lavishly equipped tombs of later Chinese kings, queens and nobles. A particularly striking exhibit is the wonderful jade burial suit of Prince Liu Sheng of the 2nd century BC, worn in the belief that jade would ensure eternal life.

The evening will begin with a lecture by a leading expert on China, followed by a private view of the exhibition and a glass of wine. Invitations to these reader evenings are popular so it is advisable to apply now by filling in the coupon below and sending it with your remittance to: *The Times/British*



Museum Lecture & Private View, THP, 45 Islington Park Street, London N1 1QB. As the number of places is limited, coupons should arrive by Monday, September 16, 1996.

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Rocking their way into a midlife crisis

DANCE

Billboards Festival Hall

Ballet and rock music are by no means mutually exclusive. Twyla Tharp proved that in the early 1970s in America when she set *Deuce Coupe* to songs by the Beach Boys. Twenty years later in this country, Christopher Bruce had the biggest hit of his career with *Rooster*, music courtesy the Rolling Stones. For 25 years choreographers have been tapping into the instant accessibility of popular music, and sometimes the results have been terrific. But have they ever been worse than *Billboards*?

This is the mega-hit which the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago now brings to London (Edinburgh has the pleasure next month), trailing the sort of hype usually associated with the pop industry. And why not, since *Billboards* is set to songs by Prince, or the artist formerly known as Prince. The Joffrey, the outfit formerly known as a ballet company, has danced little else for the past three years — *Billboards* grossed more than \$10 million in its first year, so you can understand the enthusiasm.

This ballet might have had a fighting chance if the Joffrey's director, Gerald Arpino, had been more astute in his choice of choreographers. There are four, each one responsible for one *Billboard* (so-called because the backdrop is a billboard), and the only thing that links the sections is the fact that they are all unworthy of their success.

Laura Dean opens proceedings with *Sometimes It Snows In April*, an inoffensive, limp affair that at least pays lip service to the Joffrey's classical heritage. The *Bayadère*-in-

spired procession that kicks things off is fun, although Dean quickly falls back on lazy and anodyne choreographic doodles, asking the dancers to twirl and high kick their way through some sadly superficial writing.

Much worse follows. Charles Moulton contributes two numbers in *Billboard II* (*Thunder and Purple Rain*) of unbelievable vulgarity — and, suddenly, the Laura Dean is starting to look pretty good. Moulton's band of green-haired punks having a rave-up in hell evinces not a jot of wit; and the sexual invitation explicit in his choreography wouldn't seduce a starving Don Juan.



Entwined in vulgarity: Julie Janus, Tyler Walters

And poor Beatrix Rodriguez, who was part of that historic cast in 1973 when *Deuce Coupe* had its premiere with the Joffrey. Here she is dressed like Pierrot and having a *crise de costume* while Prince's guitar wails through *Purple Rain*. Her "what should I wear tonight, darling?" histrionics are a risible piece of ludicrous invention (I'm sure apocalypse is meant to figure in Moulton's thinking somewhere). And even a change of clothes into a gold lamé catsuit isn't enough to calm her down.

The Chippendales meet *Flashdance* in Margo Sappington's nightmare (third *Billboard*). Hunky men in minimal attire thrust their well-muscled shoulders in our faces, while women in fishnet present their groins for libidinous inspection. The whole thing is tacky and insincere, and completely lacking the gloss of its antecedents.

Peter Puci has the final word with *Willing and Able*, a touchie-feelie excursion into group grope whose crotch-to-crotch duets are notable for their limp eroticism. Some of the dancers worked hard to make something out of nothing; others looked bored.

We know the Joffrey has a proud history that embraces Ashton, Balanchine, Joos, Massine, Nijinsky and Tudor. But today, forty years after Robert Joffrey founded it, the company is reduced to dancing *Billboards* night after night, all over the world. Is this cynical exercise in crass commercialism really how the Joffrey wants to celebrate its 40th anniversary?

DEBRA CRAINE



■ POP 1

Christy Moore has poured his troubadour soul and impish poetry into a new album



■ POP 2

Highest of highs, lowest of lows: the Stone Roses have experienced them all

THE ARTS



■ CABARET

Lorna Luft deftly evokes the great Broadway musicals in her residency at the Café Royal



■ TOMORROW

How will the great Peter Stein stage *Uncle Vanya*? Read Benedict Nightingale's view

How to bottle the essence of Ireland

Christy Moore may have found a cure for the eternal dilemma of the live performer. The searing Irish campaigner can ease his way into a recording studio and single-handedly commandeer the establishment. But put him in a recording studio and the magic disappears — until now, that is. It is 30 years since the former anti-clerk from Newbridge near Dublin first travelled to England to hone his skills on the folk club circuit. The road to fame was not without its stumbling blocks, but it led to his entirely justified reputation as one of the most compulsive and exhilarating live musicians of his day.

Like so many artists before him, Moore has yearned to bottle the Irish poetry of his live persona and uncork it in the soundproof netherworld where he is obliged to conduct his day job. And for the first time, it seems that he may have succeeded.

Next week Grapevine Records releases his new album *Graffiti Tongue*, another powerful mixture of pert humour, damp-eyed wistfulness and poignant social observation. Determined to overcome the frustrating formalism he felt whenever tapes were rolling and faders sliding, Moore decided to treat the place as if it were a concert hall and use minimal post-production. He took the plunge and recorded virtually live in the studio — with cathartic results.

"The studio to me is a cold, sterile kind of place," he says. "To people who have amassed the knowledge to use a recording studio, it's a lot more comfortable. I can be easily daunted by the coldness. I have never embraced the studio ambience, whereas I have taken the audiotape to heart."

"Before I was always a bit scared,

The folk singer Christy Moore was a hit on stage but a self-conscious flop in the studio. He tells Paul Sexton how he conquered his fear of the microphone

looking at the engineer to see what he really thought. This time around I had enough confidence to use my own judgment, to say 'that's not right, I want to do it again'. I didn't care what anybody else thought."

Moore made two attempts to record *Graffiti Tongue* before settling in a studio in West Cork, and he speaks in the sleeve notes about working on the songs in such Utopian-sounding spots as Innis Maan, Inchicore and the Bog of Allen. Whatever the preparation, it worked — the result is an album at once soothing and thought-provoking.

The opening, concealed salvo is *Yellow Triangle*, an invocation to speak out against injustice that was inspired by the words of a victim of the Nazis: "I did not speak, I did not speak, eventually they came for me and there was no one left to speak". By contrast, the album closes with *Rory's Gone*, Moore's affectionate farewell in song to the great blues-rock guitarist Rory Gallagher.

Along the way he throws his customary handful of spanners into the cogs of conventional wisdom, especially on *God Woman* ("she spent seven days creating the world... then she opened up her ribcage, pulled out a little man, she put him down on the plains of Kildare and the human race

began"). "I'm uncomfortable with having the male deity shoved down my neck all the time," he says by way of innocent explanation. "Why does it have to be He? Nor do I believe in She-God or It-God."

The track to which passers-by will be drawn first — and the song due to be a single when Moore plays in London in November — is

North and South of the River, which he co-wrote with Bono and The Edge of U2. Much as people may zero in on the rock star connection, egos are checked at the door by any of his collaborators.

"When Bono's with me he's not a rock star, he's just another human being and we have a very good time together," says Moore. "I started writing that song five or six years ago and thought it was almost finished. But there was a line which said 'Let us walk together and hear the corncrakes singing in the meadow' and the first thing Bono did was to get rid of all the corncrakes in the meadow. If you're going to collaborate with someone, you've got to collaborate."

While he may have started to make his word law in the studio, Moore has always needed the opinion of an audience, whether on stage during his career or at home in his teens in Newbridge, from his

highly musical family. "The first person I sang with was my mother," he recalls.

Asked whether his mother is still around, he answers with a laugh: "She's still around, but she's dead. She's around in my head, in the heads of all my family. We talk about her a lot, we feel her presence. She died four years ago while I was demo-ing *King Tuck*."

"She was a big influence right through my career, my main critic. She had a great ear for a lyric. Even when I was in my late forties, she would still tell me when I was doing things wrong."

The household in which Moore was raised certainly shaped his future calling, but unlike those whose lives changed forever when they first heard rock'n'roll, his career was tugged in another direction: towards folk music.

"I was exposed to a lot of music as a child," he says, "but the next thing I can remember hearing was Ella Fitzgerald singing *Swinging Shepherd Blues*. There was Tommy Steele, Elvis of course, Bill Haley... then Liam Clancy and all the other things were gone. I plugged into the Clancy Brothers, got the guitar and it was a whole different thing."

As the eager followers who pack concert halls to hear Christy Moore will soon judge, *Graffiti Tongue* is a fine example of his "whole different thing".

"If I hear something of mine from the old days, I can recognise who I'm trying to copy, like maybe Ewan MacColl," he says. "Then you go on, you're struggling to have your own style. You wake up one morning and you find the voice with which you're comfortable."

● The album *Graffiti Tongue* is reviewed on Page 36. Christy Moore begins a tour of Ireland in Limerick on Sunday and plays the Forum in London from November 28-30



Always a charismatic stage performer, Moore has achieved a breakthrough with his new album

For a few unnerving minutes, in a recording studio on the rue de Seine, in Paris, the jazz guitarist Marin Taylor could be forgiven for wishing that he had chosen a younger, fitter collaborator than Stephane Grappelli. As the octogenarian violinist, confined to a wheelchair and still recovering from a bout of pneumonia, flouts ondate after another in his solo *Chicago*, an unmistakable air of unease descends on the theatrical booth.

In the 60 years since he first played with Django Reinhardt's Quintette du Hot Club de France, Grappelli has never felt at home in the impersonal surroundings of a studio. The bandstand has always been his true home. "With studio music, you must live the heart in a good pace," he says. "I had the same experience with Django, always felt a little apprehensive at first, but when I heard Django playing those fabulous chords behind me, my nerves went away."

To help him along, Taylor

Hot club of Paris

A recording session brings together two jazz originals born half a century apart

tries singing the opening notes. Even though they were born almost 50 years apart, the two men share the same lyric, improvisatory temperament. The timeless Reinhardt-Grappelli discs had furnished Taylor with his earliest musical experience, and he joined Grappelli's group in his early twenties for what became an 11-year stint. Three years ago they came together again for a duets album, *Reunion*.

Soon afterwards, Taylor launched his acoustic group, Spirit of Django, which adds its own distinctively modern twist to Hot Club standards.

Now they are together again, for an album called, aptly enough, *Years Apart*.

At last, as one performance follows another of *Chicago*, Grappelli begins to warm to the task at hand. Once he makes sense of a missing downbeat, his confidence grows perceptibly, the legato lines stretching further and further across the beat. "I'm starting to like this tune, finally," he murmurs.

When producer Calum Malcolm moves on to *Dinah* the playful notes tumble against each other. Standing near the mixing console as he listens to the playback, Taylor looks amply satisfied: "I'll have a large drink tonight," he says. When his three numbers are finished, Grappelli waits to be taken downstairs to the street. He has to catch a plane to Cap Ferrat, there to rest in one of his favourite hotels.

CLIVE DAVIS

● Years Apart is released by Linn records. Taylor begins an extensive national tour at the Village Theatre, East Kilbride on September 4

At Reading, the band that wanted to be adored took our love and broke it into little pieces

This is, that was, the Stone Roses

Three-headed calves in formaldehyde. Root vegetables in the shape of Christ's face. Bearded ladies and the Fattest Man in the World — none of these break show acts can have attracted half the morbid curiosity that the Stone Roses created at last week's Reading Festival. And what happened? Cautious, whistles and — most damning of all — laughter from a 40,000-strong audience, many wearing Stone Roses T-shirts.

The whole affair reads like an Aesop fable: the Depressing Story of the Stone Roses. In 1989, Reni, Mani, John Squire and Ian Brown recorded 45 minutes of beautiful pop, and instant godlike status was conferred on every cell in the four men's bodies. The Roses then embarked on a bitter and long-running court case with their record company, in order to break their contract and seek a more lucrative deal elsewhere. In 1991 they signed with Geffen and started work

on their second album, assuring their fans that the album would be out within the year. This statement was photocopied and reissued in 1992, 1993 and 1994. Throughout these years the band were silent and fans were left to wonder.

In 1995 the Roses' second album was finally put on the release schedule, but there were to be no interviews, no tour, and no copies of the album sent to the press before the release date. As the reviewers heard *The Second Coming* only on the day of release, most write-ups were inconclusive. The general feeling was one of unease with the new, Led Zeppelin-esque direction, but the hope that the album would be "a grower".

It was not to be. *The Second Coming* sold only half what its predecessor had. The Roses still



CAITLIN MORAN

refused to tour. Two months after the album was released Reni, the Roses' lithe and innovative drummer, left the band. Six months after that, Squire followed him. Squire, who played fluid, light-filled lead guitar, wrote the music and most of the lyrics.

All that was left of the once-glorious Stone Roses were Mani, the bassist, and Brown, whose inability to locate and keep a note was legendary. Anonymous session musicians were drafted in, former members of Hot Chocolate and Simply Red among them. It was this line-up that headlined the last day of the last festival of 1996.

As so here we are in a field, waiting for the Oasis of their day to prove that the arrogance of the past seven years was justified. The band take the stage,

and the first notes of *I Wanna Be Adored* ring out bright and true: 40,000 people know that the first lines are "I don't have to sell my soul/He's already in me", the encapsulation of the Robert Johnson/Devil at the crossroads barrier, to be delivered in a triumphal croon.

Instead, we get a brutal, hideous noise: a horror-show that cuts dead the party atmosphere in three seconds flat. People are laughing before the chorus. People are crying by the end. A band that could soar and fly where ever the mood took them, reduced to playing only to the drunk, the drugged and those who are laughing too hard to leave. "This is our new guitarist Ariz," Brown says at one point, his face twisted, his tone petulant. "At least he wants to play with us."

And the moral is: you can only act like a rock star when you have the ability to rock. Anything else is unjustifiable arrogance.

HMV folk selection — September —



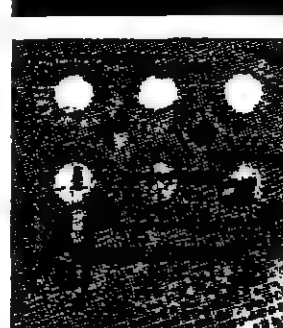
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Getting intimate with bold Lorna

IT IS a brave singer who builds a cabaret set around songs drawn almost exclusively from musical theatre. Without firm anchorage in a plot and denied the trappings of costumes or scenery, the songs demand hard work from the vocalist. Yet on a couple of occasions during her set at the Green Room, Lorna Luft managed brilliantly to evoke a wider setting than the confines of her small stage.

Slipping into the character of Miss Adelaide in *Gypsy* and *Dolls*, which she played on Broadway, Luft dripped and sniffed her way through *A Person Can Develop A Cold*. She was equally effective in summoning up the inner strength of Mrs Lovett from *Sweeney Todd* in *No One's Going To Harm You*, a quiet and delicate song in which the clarity of her voice was remarkable. Indeed she excelled in all the more intimate numbers in her programme, including *What Did I Have That I Don't Have Now?* from *On A Clear Day*, although here, despite a lengthy preamble, she failed to give the audience a proper context for Lerner's lyrics

CABARET
Lorna Luft
Café Royal

about the psychic evocation of 18th-century London. Luft's career takes her more often into large halls and theatres than such intimate surroundings as the Café Royal, and occasionally the strength of her voice was almost too much for the room. On her forthcoming British tour with Wayne Sleep she will be singing in venues more suited to that power, but here her triumphs were on a smaller scale, particularly when she sang to the solo piano of her musical director Colin Freeman.

In these hushed moments, Luft is a star with a mesmerizing stage presence. Her most impressive achievement is that this persona is entirely her own — she has no need to trade on her impressive lineage as the daughter of Judy Garland and half-sister of Liza Minnelli.

ALYN SHIPTON

● Pop and jazz record reviews are on Page 36

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

EDUCATION

Women wear hard hats and boots, too

Girls of my generation read books such as *What Katy Did* and *What Katy Did Next* and played with dolls while I, being a boy, built models with Meccano. I don't know what Katy finally did, but her chances of becoming a civil engineer, say, were slim.

For girls at school today it is a different story. At the start of July some 5,000 schools were invited to the University of Bradford to discover "some of what Kate does... as a civil engineer". The colourful poster sent from its Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering suggests that Kate is into hydroelectric power, bridges, rivers, dams and oil rigs. The three-day programme involves group exercises, projects, a visit to industry and a talk by a female engineer.

Dr Adrian Hyde, the course engineer, clearly sees the need to recruit more girls into civil engineering. "At present the department has 15 per cent female students and we recognise that this is not good enough."

Nationally, figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service representing UK students on courses in 1994 show that in the field of civil engineering women made up only 13 per cent of the total. Quoting these figures in a report by the Construction Industry Board published this summer, the Equal Opportunities Working Group shows that the tide may be turning.

More girls are seeking careers in engineering. Roger Eames examines this growing trend

"Over the past 15 years, the number of males graduating each year in civil engineering showed a steady decline but is now rising. The number of females graduating in civil engineering has risen consistently over the same timespan... an increase of nearly threefold."

Among their observations, following on from the 1994 Latham report *Constructing the Team*, was that "Companies cannot afford to disregard the growing number of women with technical degrees. Company literature needs to feature women."

For girls looking at engineering recruitment literature in general, a picture of a female is a rare bird. This year's *Careers in Civil and Structural Engineering* magazine, published by the Institution of Civil Engineers' careers service, has on its front cover a picture of a woman construction worker.

The hard-hatted and hard-worked engineer is one of four female role models included, but readers need patience to find her and her female colleagues — halfway through the publication.

after ten male features. As for university prospectuses, too many show female students looking on, while a male student does something interesting.

The Women into Science and Engineering (Wise) organisation entered the fray 12 years ago, set up by the Engineering Council and the Equal Opportunities Commission. Marie-Noëlle Barton, its manager, offers a range of booklets, posters and a fleet of mobile teaching coaches. She also sends out copies of an excellent video. In *Wise Up!*, produced in a contemporary *Top Of The Pops* style, Ms Barton sees the role of Wise as vital in combating construction industry stereotypes.

"It is important to start reaching young girls from the primary school stage, and also their parents and teachers," she says.

"By the time they are teenagers the damage may already be done. They may feel unfamiliar with hard materials, mechanical and technical tasks, having been brought up on soft toys and 'suitable' pastimes for girls."

So is the message getting through to today's young women? Emma Mitchell had good careers advice at Casterton School in Cumbria, went on a course organised by ISCO (the Independent Schools Careers Organisation) and ended up with a first from the University of Wales.

Emma Williams, now working for Edmund Nuttal, found an unusual reaction from the boys. While studying at Liverpool she found they came to her for help.

It shows that if you are a girl studying civil engineering you are there because you want to be there and want to work hard. Ms Williams got a first.

Leading firms such as Laing, Bovis, Taylor Woodrow and Balfour Beatty all invest in recruitment. Sarah Wenn, who works for Laing, having graduated from Bristol, and who plays rugby for England, is a high-profile role model keen to talk to teenagers.

Adele Stach-Kevitz was selected by Balfour Beatty to go on a three-day course to fine-tune her communication skills before giving presentations to sixth-form colleges. Her message? "Civil engineering is a career of opportunity. It offers girls travel, creativity, team-working, job satisfaction and financial reward — and we are not all tomboys in size 12 boots."



Emma Williams helped boys with their course work

Jennai Cox on how taking a year off can prove a valuable experience for students

Taking a break pays off

There have never been more ways to fill a gap year between school and university even if your year off from academia comes more by default than design.

Students are increasingly being told to take a university place while they can to avoid threats of admission fees and diminishing grants, but arguments in favour of a rest from study remain strong.

Many admissions tutors believe students who spend a year out arrive at college with greater self-confidence and drive. If he could, Joe Connors, a professor in the Chemistry Department at Kent University, would ensure no one went straight from school to university. Students should try office or other work and need to get the travel bug out of their systems, he says.

"Often young people come to the end of their time at school with no clear idea about why they want to do what they want to do," Professor Connors says. "Having a break after 11 years of almost continuous education provides them with the opportunity to think about where they are going."

According to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) 5,000 students turned down a place at a university this year because they wanted to rethink their careers. Many who spend a year away discover they have chosen the wrong course.

After spending part of her year out teaching Tibetan refugees in north India, Anna Marriott decided the philosophy and English literature course she applied to at Edinburgh University was no longer suitable.

"I had been sparked by my experience abroad and wanted to learn Chinese," the 23-year-old says. She graduated this year with a 2:1 in philosophy and religion, specialising in Chinese, and once the Tibetan-themed play she is co-producing at Edinburgh ends will attend the Peking University of Language and Culture to learn Chinese. "I hate thinking about what I'd be doing if I had not had a year off. It gave me the direction I never had before."

The number of students choosing a gap year is still relatively small. Ucas figures show that about 6 per cent of those who applied to university last year chose to defer entry. According to Rosamund McDougall, who edits *The Gap Year Guidebook*, many are still unaware of the other opportunities.

Jennifer Curry, who taught English and music in Goa organised by Fill the Gap after dropping out of Roehampton



After a year among Tibetan refugees, Anna Marriott decided to switch courses

Institute, west London, said she did not know about the alternatives. "Applying to university at school was just something everyone did, so you did it too," she says. Jennifer, 20, now intends to travel and learn languages before returning to college.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of Ucas, says research into why students fail to accept university places indicates that they are forced to make their minds up too early and thinks more mature students make better decisions about what to study.

Unless entry has been deferred those still intending to go to university in 1997 will have to reapply. Students planning to go abroad are advised to do so as soon as possible because earlier applications are usually the first to be given interviews, which can continue well into next year. Admissions tutors can be contacted to discover when interviews are to be conducted. Once overseas, accepting

university places can be done by parents, with whom students are usually in touch during their trip. Those travelling now should get hold of an application form which can be sent from wherever they are going, or be filled in and sent by parents.

When Angus Lugsdin, 19,

failed to get onto the oceanography course at Southampton he decided to raise money and go to Canada, where he worked and travelled for six months. He took up a place to do geology at Cardiff last year but wanted to change to marine geography.

"The tutor said I didn't have

GAP-YEAR CONTACTS

● The Year in Industry (0161-275 4369) has a few places still.

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Tables turned on A levels

John O'Leary on the conflicting pictures of exam results

Tomorrow sees the end, for now, of the school league-table season. But, if last week's A-level tables were anything to go by, the publication of independent schools' GCSE results will not settle which was the year's top performance.

While *The Times*, judging candidates on the points system used for university entrance, had the boys of St Paul's School, in west London, on top of the table, *The Daily Telegraph* gave the honour to the neighbouring St Paul's Girls because of a higher proportion of passes at A and B grades. For the same reason, the *Daily Mail* listed Ermsyde's School, in North Yorkshire, as the top state school, rather than King Edward VI School, in Chelmsford, Essex.

Similar confusion is likely tomorrow if newspapers use different criteria to judge success at GCSE. The top state school, taking into account all A grades, is Kendrick School, in Reading, but newspapers using starred A grades alone will place Henrietta Barnett School, in north London, at the top of the league. When the Government's tables appear in November, scores of schools will be bracketed at the top because the measure then is the proportion of pupils with five passes at C or above.

For many critics, such variety is further proof of the fallibility of league tables in a week when they have already been blamed for encouraging schools to abandon their weakest pupils. In fact, neither criticism is justified.

Even the best schools have strengths and weaknesses, and the different methods of compiling the tables can tease them out. The absence of a single, all-powerful table should be welcome to the

opponents of league tables because it underlines the fact that there is more than one way of looking at a school's performance, even in the limited field of examination results.

The tables certainly are not responsible for the decline in the number of GCSE entries, as some people claimed last week, unless head teachers all over England and Wales are shooting themselves in the foot. The GCSE tables (unlike those at A level) are based on the total number of 15-year-olds, not on examination candidates, so schools can only damage their prospects by refusing to enter pupils.

Although some local authorities produce their own GCSE tables based on the number of candidates, rather than all pupils in the year, the only way a school could improve its position in the national rankings is by expelling no-hopers before the Government census is taken. This may happen in some schools, but not in the numbers needed to produce last week's dip in GCSE entries.

There is legitimate concern, expressed on these pages earlier in the year, that the Government's use of five higher-grade GCSE passes as the main indicator of performance encourages schools to concentrate their efforts on borderline candidates at the expense of lower-ability pupils. This summer's results confirmed such suspicions, with the overall pass rate remaining static while the higher grades improved. But that is a different effect, and one which could be overcome by using a points system like that for A level, which takes account of all a school's results.

TOP A-LEVEL RESULTS PER ENTRY

School	Points per candidate	Points per entry
1 (17) St. Swithun's School	27.5	8.84
2 (7) The Perse School	26.9	8.81
3 (12) St. Paul's Girls' School	26.2	8.79
4 (1) St. Paul's School	31.4	8.74
5 (14) Wycliffe Abbey School	26.0	8.73
6 (2) Westminster School	31.3	8.71
7 (5) North London Collegiate School	26.0	8.68
8 (11) Westminster School	26.3	8.65
9 (20) St. Mary's School	27.2	8.63
10 (4) Winchester College	29.3	8.60

The Times table placements are in brackets

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Going to the dogs turns out to be a relative success

Atton Towers is too far from London, even further than 0181 telephone numbers; then Martha had been to Legoland, Sophie did not want to go to Whipsnade and museums are boring, you know B-O-R-I-N-G.

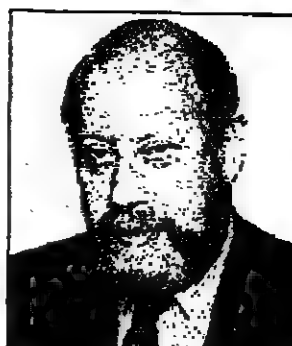
The film *Independence Day* Harriet had seen *Independence Day* and you had to be 15 to get into *The Truth About Cats and Dogs*; only one of us was over 15. What did I think?

I explained that my function was to take them for an end-of-holiday outing; they were to choose the location.

We want you to choose the location. I chose Hackney dogs; different, instructive, with an outside chance of being self-financing.

The London Stadium at Hackney, to give the place its full name, is a luxurious, futuristic, difficult-to-find greyhound stadium which went into receivership the day it opened last year; it lost its excellent chef just as people began going there for the food, and is now settling down with his talented successor. It is the handsomest establishment of its kind... which might be the reason for its failure, to date, to attract the multitudes. "Going to the dogs" and being served "terrine of rabbit with calvados and glazed quinquats" is a marriage still looking for partners.

CLEMENT FREUD



On Friday

The three-tier terrace restaurant seats in excess of 600 patrons. We were 48. Below is a bar whose customers boosted the attendance well into three figures. On the far side of the track is a good-sized stand. This was closed.

Each restaurant table affords a fine view of racing and has a closed-circuit television set on which you can watch the contest, get replays, Totalisator odds and information of coming events like the weekend's speedway championship.

You can also switch channels: I watched some of *Great Railway Journeys* on BBC2. Waitresses are



Martha, left, Sophie, centre, and Harriet study the form over dinner at the London Stadium

efficient, though not exactly over-worked, and there is an abundance of green-blazered Tote staff who take diners' bets, bring them tickets, collect their winnings, commiserate at their losses.

Casino croupiers are taught to conduct games with speed; never, they are told, allow punters sufficient time to assess the situation, lest they consider the matter and

go home. At Hackney — "Have you booked?" asks the man at reception when "Thank goodness, you've come" would be more apposite — there is a race every 15 minutes: a blast of recorded hunting music, entry of six greyhounds, brief inspection of each by the veterinarian, parade past the stands, assembly behind the traps, handlers push dogs into traps,

official ensures that none has tail caught in machinery or muzzle pushed over eyes — and the electric hare is started.

It flashes past the traps, which open. And they race, sometimes one circuit, sometimes one and a half. The electric hare disappears into its housing, a dummy hare is thrown to help the dogs unwind, and the judge announces the order

of finish. A waitress brings fried fillets of plaice with best spinach and cream, tartar sauce, chips and the Tote woman ambles along to ask if we have yet made up our minds about the next race: "There are the dogs coming out, now".

On page two of the racecard are printed the selections of greyhound racing experts. I had explained the methodology of betting to my granddaughter and her friends, a win bet means the dog must come first; place is first or second but pays less. Straight forecast is the winner and the runner-up in correct order; a reverse forecast is two bets but you win if your two selections finish first and second in either order.

I agreed to provide each girl with £2 for each race; they were to keep half their winnings.

In race one, Martha wanted £1 to win on dogs one, three and five. I explained that she was exceeding her budget by 50 per cent and with that bet, irrespective of which of her selections won, she was likely to lose. She sulked. Sophie, to show loyalty, said £2 to place No 3. Harriet decided to watch the race to get the hang of it. No 6 beat No 4, so Harriet did best.

None of the experts had picked the winner and two fanned melons and a watercress and scallop salad later we made our selections by looking at the dogs on parade.

taking into account their names, their trap numbers and the opinion of the professional tipsters: Harriet also noted the fastest recent times. Martha won the most.

In race seven, all tipsters gave the No 1 dog — "so he must win", suggested Harriet.

I explained that, were they to run a straight 400 metres, the same dog would win every time, but with four bends and the likelihood of being bumped and impeded, it was really anyone's race. So she backed No 4. The No 1 dog won.

In race ten, we all got the right forecast and I went to the loo, turned on the tap to wash my hands and water cascaded all over my jacket and that of the man standing by the next handbasin: quite long odds against finding another person in the gents at Hackney.

I put £2 on No 6 to beat No 1 in race 12, received £104 for my troubles, paid a share of this as a modelling fee to the three girls, who said: "This is much more fun than a theme park, we will be back."

I do hope Hackney will be there for them. It is such a very uplifting place to take people with whom conversation does not necessarily flow of its own account — like when there is a 60-year age gap between contestants.

GOLF: TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL APOLOGISES TO SPECTATORS AFTER FARFICAL DAY AT BRITISH MASTERS

Marshall targets Solheim Cup slot

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ÖREBRO, SWEDEN

THE Solheim Cup plot thickened as the sky darkened on the rain-soaked first day of the Compaq Open at Örebro yesterday. Kathryn Marshall, one of the Scots hoping for a wild card from Mickey Walker, the European captain for the match in Wales next month, splashed gallantly through the soaked course, her game brightened by four birdies in the first 12 holes.

She dropped her only shot at the 17th but shared second place on 69, three under par, with Marina Arruti, of Spain, one behind Raquel Carrido, another Spaniard. "It was a slog," Marshall, who is playing her twelfth tournament in successive weeks, said. "It's a very good course, but the conditions made it difficult. I'm at the end of my tether, but it's surprising how well you can play when you put your mind to it."

Carin Koch, also hoping to receive a call, did her cause no harm with a round of 70, two under par, before the rain began, the greens became flooded and play was suspended for a couple of hours. Koch, a Swede with a fiery temper that she is working hard to control, missed the cut last week and hit her opening drive here into the trees, but salvaged her par, nonetheless. She was one over after ten but three birdies in the last four holes cheered her up.

It was not such a good day for Lora Fairclough, one of Koch's playing partners. The Lancastrian's hold on her Solheim Cup place — she occupies the last of the automatic spots — looked dangerously tenuous after an undistinguished 76 that contained four bogeys, three of them in the first six holes, and 36 putts.

Joanne Morley, the woman most likely to oust Fairclough, produced a neat 70 and continued to treat the prospect of a Solheim place with her customary sang-froid. "Just another day at the office," she said, leaving emotional excesses to others. "I turned golf behind when I turned professional and I'm out here to earn a living. If I play well, I'll get in the team. If I don't, I won't."

Such insouciance does not mean Morley does not care, she simply refuses to let on how much it would mean to her. A member of the victorious Curtis Cup team at Hoylake in 1992, she has been working with Lawrence Farmer, the respected professional at Moor Park, to improve her swing and is hitting the ball further as a result.

Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden, who will undoubtedly be one of the wild cards, also scored 70 and entertained her compatriots on the way. After hitting a wedge to eight inches for a birdie at the 17th, she hoicked her drive under a tree at the 18th. Hands on hips, she reviewed the situation, hit the ball into the trunk and it ricocheted clear of trouble. A seven-iron to 12 feet, a putt in the side door and Alfredsson had the sort of par she regards as routine.

Scores, page 42

Green issue unites disgruntled players

BY MEL WEBB

THE One 2 One British Masters at Collingtree Park descended into the realms of farce yesterday, leaving PGA European Tour officials greener around the gills than the grass on which players were being asked to putt. It led to an outburst by Ian Woosnam, who said he had never played on worse greens, and an apology by Mike Stewart, the tournament director, who agreed with him.

The putting surfaces are said to be affected by a condition known as annual meadow grass decline, but in plainer language they are grainy, inconsistent in speed, horrible to look at and worse to putt on — Paul Broadhurst, the Ryder Cup player, said he would not park his car on them, let alone play golf. The situation is made all the more embarrassing for the powers-that-be by the fact that the Northampton course is owned jointly by the European Tour and Mark McCormack's International Management Group. Stewart apologised to the players before the tournament, and he followed that yesterday by doing the same to the spectators who had forked out £16 to get in.

"We're all disappointed that the greens have not been of a standard that we would wish for a tournament of this stature," Stewart said. "Up to three weeks ago they were fine, but circumstances have been such that the condition they are in is certainly not at a level that tournament

professionals desire."

As scores mounted throughout the day, players became increasingly angry, and none of them was more furious than Woosnam. "The greens have gone, and there's no way they're going to come back," he said after a 76 that contained five bogeys. "The sponsors are putting so much money in, and when you have to play on greens like that, it doesn't do the sponsors any good and it doesn't do the tour any good. They're the worst I've ever putted on."

Some players, meanwhile, were voting with their feet. By late afternoon, 11 had pulled out with ailments that varied from tendinitis to migraine to exhaustion. Professional golfers being the fine, upstanding people they are, the injuries were probably all genuine, but it was difficult to banish from the mind the phrase that involves sinking ships, and the desertion of them by small furry animals.

Howard Clark, one of the retirees, made a rapid exit with what was later described as an arm injury, but it is hard to believe that a two-stroke penalty that was imposed on him by Stewart as he left the 17th green had nothing to do with his departure one hole later.

Clark's misdemeanour occurred on the 13th green after the caddy of Russell Claydon, one of his playing partners, caught the edge of the hole with a ring, and Clark made the mistake of repairing the damage himself rather than



Woosnam chips onto the 18th green during his round of 76 yesterday

calling for an official to do it. "Howard was not happy when I told him," Stewart said with masterly understatement.

With the first round having been completed yesterday morning after Wednesday's thunderstorms, play continued long into the evening.

With Colin Montgomerie fading from the picture, the baton was taken up on four under par by Robert Allenby. His 71, completed late in the day with the greens at their worst, was a small classic.

The cut looked likely to fall on six over par, in vivid

contrast to the previous week, when it was five under in the German Open at the laughably easy Schloss Nippenburg, near Stuttgart. That layout is also owned by the Tour and IMG; say what you like about their courses, they are certainly not boring.

Hotchkin sets course on new venture

John Hopkins finds Woodhall Spa's former owner still minding 'the home of amateur golf' as it hosts the St Andrews Trophy

617 Squadron, the Dam Busters. Their officers' mess was located in the bar of the local Petwood Hotel.

There is more to Hotchkin than meets the eye, too. He grew up in the Old Manor House where his bedroom overlooked the 18th green and the club's assistant pro used to bowl endlessly at him at a net in the garden.

Stafford Hotchkin, sometime MP, was a very good golfer and a cricketer, whereas his son set a scoring record of

459 runs in the Eton versus Harrow matches between 1931 and 1933 and played for Middlesex with Edrich and Compton but never could get lower than a handicap of eight.

"I didn't have to pass an exam to enter Cambridge," Hotchkin recalled. "Trinity asked me if I wanted to come up and play cricket for them and I said yes. I was too busy playing cricket at Hove to matriculate. I loved Cambridge. I was a nippy centre forward and it was there I started supporting Arsenal."

"I used to go to the dogs at the White City every week. The last race was at 9.30. I would watch it from the entrance of the stadium, have a taxi waiting to get me to King's Cross to catch the 9.55 train back to Cambridge. I always saw the last race and never missed my train — called the Flying Formicator, by the way."

For years, Hotchkin worked as a stockbroker in London and returned to Woodhall Spa each weekend to see what had been done and to leave another list of instructions. Since retiring from the City, he

can be seen almost every day roaming the course that he regards with a fervour bordering on love.

A professional event was staged there once but Hotchkin did not enjoy it. Asked why, he wrinkled his nose in a manner that suggested disdain and returned with evident pleasure to the amateur events held at his club.

"We've had three Brabazons, four English (amateurs), a home international. We've got the county finals coming

TODAY'S PLAY

Foursumers
B Howard and M Brooks (Scott) v D Olson and M Eriksen (Swe)
W Bladen and R Wiggins (Eng) v S Garcia (Sp) and M Lelaber (Hol)
K Nolan (Ire) and G Wolstenholme (Eng) v G Pavesio (Fr) and M Lashin (Fin)
J Ferguson (Ire) and R Bourne (Sud) v J M Lizo and I Giner (Sp)

Singles
Bladen v Olson
Howard v Lelaber
Brooks v Garcia
Bourne v Pavesio
M Ellis (Wales) v Giner
Wolstenholme v A Broto (It)
Ferguson v Lizo
Nolan v Lashin



Hotchkin: sale to EGU

EQUESTRIANISM

Phillips decides to turn down British approach

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

CAPTAIN Mark Phillips has decided, "after much deliberation and heartache", to continue as trainer to the United States three-day event team rather than accept an offer from Great Britain.

Speaking on the eve of his Land Rover British Horse Trials at Gatcombe, Phillips said: "I do not feel it would be right to walk out on the Americans with the job only half done. My financial security is also a consideration and there was a substantial difference between the two offers. So, although my heart lies in this country, the prudent option was to continue with my job in America."

His decision was greeted with dismay in Britain. "We are obviously very disappointed that he will not be playing a major role with our team over the next four years," John Tulloch, the chairman of the horse trials committee, said. "but it is very understandable that he feels he must complete his job in America."

Bridget Parker, the chairman of the selectors, said: "It's disappointing. We've tried to involve him but obviously we cannot match the money offered by the Americans."

Bruce Davidson, a member of the United States silver medal-winning team at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, heads the field for the British Open this weekend. Davidson, who won in 1986, has two leading contenders in Squelch and his 1995 Badminton winner, Eagle Lion.

Mary King and Karen Dixon, two former winners, head the British entry. Surprisingly, both riders are competing on their Olympic horses, King William and Too Smart, who returned from Atlanta five weeks ago.

"I hadn't intended to," Dixon said yesterday, "but Too Smart is so well that I thought it was a shame not to ride him." The ten-year-old gelding, who won the British Open in 1994, appears refreshed after two weeks' rest.

King found King William in similarly boisterous mood. The 13-year-old gelding, who has completed ten four-star events but ended with a disappointing run in Atlanta, is now stepping down a level. "I'm keeping him mainly for one-day horse trials," King said. "He's going to be a fun horse now."

Kristina Gifford has adopted the same approach with her 1993 European silver medal-winner, Song And Dance Man, whom she rides this weekend. The 17-year-old gelding is used for a variety of events, including the Melton Hunt Cup, in which he was runner-up this year. He has been third at Gatcombe for the past two years. If he were to succeed in this, his final attempt, there would be no more popular winner.

□ The dressage phase of the world carriage driving championships, due to start yesterday in Waregem, Belgium, was postponed for a day because of heavy rain.

ICE HOCKEY

Superleague imports threaten home market

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AFTER ten years of relative stability, British ice hockey embarks on the new season with guarded optimism, contemplating a new structure and a sport that is going to cost a great deal more to run than it has in the past.

The British League has been replaced by the Superleague, which laid down several criteria for membership to teams, one of the most important of which was said to be an arena with at least 5,000 seats. Of the eight teams, only three fulfil this particular criterion and at least two have little or no prospect of enlargement.

The Centrum, in Ayr, a new building that took ten years to complete, has only 3,000 seats and the smaller rinks will find it difficult to compete against the likes of Manchester (16,500), Sheffield (8,500) and Newcastle (7,500).

Assessing the relative strength of teams is confusing as they have been busy importing players whose pedigree is unknown in this country. As the Superleague made it clear from the outset that there would be no restriction on the number of overseas players, there has been a glut of Canadians, Swedes, Finns, Italians and Germans, to the virtual exclusion of home-bred products. This is not good for

the future of the sport in this country and is thought by many to mirror the events of the 1960s, which saw ice hockey almost disappear from Britain.

When the revival began ten years ago, the British Ice Hockey Association made every effort to restrict the number of imports and youngsters had every incentive to improve as they saw an opportunity to join top clubs. Now, though, British players have become a rarity in the national team and could become even rarer in the Superleague.

Below the top level, the sport has become regionalised because the teams in the north of England and Scotland are unwilling, or unable, to devote as much money to ice hockey as those in the south. At least this means that there will be fewer imports in what are to be called the Premier League and the Northern Premier League. It is to be hoped that the home-bred players will be given a realistic chance to reach the highest level.

The first three weeks of the season are taken up with the Benson & Hedges Cup. Each group of four teams includes two Superleague teams and it is hard to imagine that any of them will fail to qualify for the quarter-finals.

RUGBY UNION: NEWCASTLE CHAIRMAN SEES CHALLENGE TO SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE SUPREMACY AFTER DOMESTIC REVOLUTION

Hall sounds battle cry for clubs

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

"THE Rugby Football Union thinks it can treat us like a puppy, like a big Labrador and toss us a biscuit every now and again to keep us happy. Well, the RFU may find out that what they have is an albatross, not a Labrador." The speaker was Sir John Hall, the place St James' Park and the time 48 hours before England's senior clubs decided to recommend a rupture with their governing body.

Sir John, chairman of Newcastle United Sporting Clubs, was the first outsider to enter the world of "open" club rugby 51 weeks ago, when he took over Newcastle Gosforth, imported Rob Andrew as his director of rugby and outlined his vision for the sporting renaissance of the North East.

Since then he has been followed by other rich men prepared to invest millions in English rugby — not, it should be noted, England rugby, though all would acknowledge the potential international spin-off if club rugby at the highest level could raise its standards. There are now a dozen owner-investors in the first and second divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship, all of whom have grown impatient with the RFU.

"Quite a lot of the RFU would be happy to wave us bye-bye," Sir

John said. "There are reformers on the RFU committee but not enough of them and, when the in-fighting has finished, there can be no certainty that they will have won. So, if the conservatives want us to go, they should tell us now and we'll go and play professional rugby as we want to play it, without any fetters or restrictions."

Instead, it is the clubs are preparing to wave goodbye to the union under whose aegis they have played the game since 1871 and, in Sir John's view, it will be a move for the better. "We want English, we want British rugby to be strong because it will be a tremendous product and we could challenge the southern nations much more effectively," he said.

"When Ross Turnbull came over from Australia a year ago, trying to establish the World Rugby Corporation, we turned him down because it wasn't right for British rugby. Since then, we've tried to find an accommodation with the RFU but all they've done is give a little, then take so much back.

"They want district rugby, primary of contract, control of TV deals and that's stifling the clubs. English clubs want to burst their shackles, the game will develop in the next ten years a thousand times

more than it has ever done with the RFU. You only have to look at the figures: for a start, the investors, will put £30 million a year into club rugby, which will find its way down to the academies, the medical side, the coaching, the stadiums.

"If you look at the RFU accounts, by my reckoning they have been able to invest on average in the last four years £2 million a year, in 2,000 clubs. And people tell me that the clubs will not change things."

"The clubs have to do the deals, that is paramount. No one can say that people like me, Nigel Wray [at Saracens], Ashley Levett [at Leeds], don't know how to deal with television companies better than the pundits at the RFU.

"Money gives you power and independence, players will be driven to better standards, but this present generation of players now has a difficult decision to make. If we don't release players, what will the unions do? We, the clubs, can give them domestic and European competition, we could even give them our own international rugby. They are under contract to us and I would expect them to support us in every major dispute with the unions."



Sir John at St James' Park, the heart of his sporting empire

Lions hope to be unifying force

BY DAVID HANDS

ON THE day the British Isles completed the formation of the most experienced management team in their history, they learnt that many of the players they are likely to want for the tour to South Africa next summer may not even be representing their country in the coming season.

If England's leading clubs break away from the Rugby Football Union (RFU), as they have threatened to do, no one can guarantee that they will make their players available for such fixtures as England have already organised.

The Lions management will cross their fingers that it will not come to that. As Fran Cotton, the tour manager, said in Cardiff yesterday, they appear the one cohesive force in British rugby in a period of unmitigated strife; their aim is to bring together the best of the players from the four home unions under the guidance of Cotton, Ian McGeechan and his fellow Scot, Jim Telfer, who has been confirmed as assistant coach.

It is five years since McGeechan and Telfer last linked, guiding Scotland through the 1991 World Cup, and it remains possible that a

third Scot, Rob Wainwright, could captain the Lions. Since Will Carling has stepped down as the England captain, with no intention of undertaking any more long tours, the post is wide open.

The rift between the clubs and the RFU has been emphasised by Wasps threatening legal action against the union, which they perceive to be hindering a work permit for their recruit from rugby league, Vasilis Tuigamala. "We applied for an extension of Vasilis' rugby league work permit but it was turned down," Charles Levenson, the Wasps legal adviser, said. "We find it irrational and we are having a judicial review."

Tuigamala, who will return home to Western Samoa if his move to Wasps falls through, has fallen foul of an agreement between the RFU and the Department of Employment which permits the signing of overseas players only if they have played a union international within the past 18 months.

London Scottish passed into new ownership on Wednesday night after a stormy extraordinary general meeting. Tony Tarks, who played for the club in the 1970s but is now based in Monaco, bought Scottish for £500,000.

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE FIRST DIVISION



BATH

Perennial champions during the last decade of amateurism, Bath are certain to present a powerful challenge. Innovative coaching is combined with talented players and the only obvious weakness is strength in depth at lock; Redman and Haag having departed over the cracks for years.

Director of rugby: John Hall.
Coach: Brian Ashton.
Captain: Phil de Glanville.
IN: Brian Cusack (Bedford), Mike Horne (Harlequins), Dan Lyle (US), Ruan Nel (Transvaal), Henry Paul (Wigan RL), Jason Robinson (Wigan RL), Nathan Thomas (Bridgend), Chris Tyler (Widnes RL), Richard Webster (Bedford RL).
OUT: Chris Clark (Richmond), Ben Clarke (Richmond), Darren Compton (Richmond), Marcus Owen (Saracens), Ed Pearce (Gloucester), Adam Vander (Richmond), Fraser Waters (Bristol).



HARLEQUINS

Twenty years ago Harlequins used to be described as the league of nations and now they are once again. Much of their new blood is among the forwards, but Gary Connolly's recruitment this week from rugby league has beefed up the back division.

Director of rugby: Richard Best.
Coach: Andy Keast.
Captain: Jason Leonard.
IN: Laurent Bénézech (Racing), Hilton Brown (Gloucester), Laurent Cusack (Racing), Gary Connolly (Wigan RL), Mike Connon (London Irish), Huw Hames (Cardiff), Jason Keyter (Bristol), Gareth Llewellyn (Neath), Glyn Llewellyn (Neath), Dan Lupton (Orrell), Simon Owen (Moseley), Robbie Paul (Bedford Bulls RL), Keith Wood (Garryowen).
OUT: Simon Brown (Bedford), Will Greenwood (Leicester), Adam Jones (Richmond), Steve Lloyd (Worcester), Brian Moore (Richmond), Martin Pepper (Bedford), Chris Shadbaby (Wasps).



NORTHAMPTON

A year ago Northampton claimed to be the club best prepared for the professional era. Now their words will be tested in a way that the second division title romp did not. The absence of the injured Bayfield in the first half of the season will be a hindrance, but a talented back division, a year older, will be worth watching.

Director of rugby: Ian McGeechan.
Coach: Paul Lavin/Geoff Wight.
Captain: Tim Rodber.
IN: Mark Fontaine (Bristol), John Hearn (New South Wales), Mark Steward (Bedford), Sean Taitou (Wigan RL), OUT: John Ebdon (Bedford), Frank Packman (Wideningborough), Mark Pyncham (Rugby Lions), Gavin Webster (Richmond).



SARACENS

A new home and a new, glamorous image will cut little ice with those clubs more accustomed to success. Yet the presence of so influential a player as Lynch, allied to a competitive back row and the diverse skills of Bracken and Sella, should secure a midway berth.

Director of rugby: Mark Evans.
Coach: Rob Cunningham.
Captain: Tony Dwyer.
IN: Nyan Bracken (Bristol), Darren Edwards (Cardiff), Matthew Evans (Cardiff), Paddy Johns (Dun-gannon), Brian Noble (Huddersfield RL), Michael Lynch (Treviso), Marcus Olan (Bath), Philipp Sella (Agen), Paul Wallace (Bedford College), Richard Wallace (Garryowen).
OUT: Eddie Halvey (Shannon).



BEDFORD

The alliance of Cooke and Paul Turner offers infinite possibilities, but the players have to translate their organisation into action in a cut-throat second division. Renewed commitment of the field to restore Bedford to former glories and they should press hard.

Director of rugby: Geoff Cooke.
Coach: Richard Gray.
Captain: To be appointed.
IN: Stuart Anderson (London Scottish), Simon Brown (Harlequins), Sean Cassidy (Newcastle), Anthony Ewne (West Hartlepool), John Ebdon (Northampton), Paul Hewitt (Sale), John Rye (Wideningborough), Steve McGuire (Widnes RL), Mark O'Connell (Wigan RL), Jeff Probyn (Wasps), Martin Pepper (Harlequins), Mike Rayer (Cardiff), Rob Scott (London Scottish), Paul Turner (Sale).
OUT: Paul Alton (Luton), Alan Buzza (Rotherham), Steve Harris (Luton).



LONDON SCOTTISH

Unable to sustain a promising start last season and with no significant change in personnel since, Smith made a distinct mark with Orrell and, if he gets the ball, should continue to press representative claims, but hard to foresee anything better than mid-table.

Director of rugby: Iain Russell.
Coach: John Steele.
Captain: Simon Holmes.
IN: Jamie Hamilton (Leicester), Graeme Smith (Orrell), Chris Tarduck (Leicester).
OUT: Stuart Anderson (Bedford), Rob Scott (Bedford).



NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham occupy an unenviable position, with powerful Leicester to the south and newly-rich Leeds to the north. The limit of their ambition will be to cling on to second-division status, while the moneyed clubs slug it out for honours.

Director of rugby: Roger Whitaker.
Coach: Simon Hodgkinson/Roger Taylor.
Captain: Alan Rayer.
IN: Murray Craig (Leicester), Richard Carrington (Rugby Lions), Steve Wile (Leicester).
OUT: Matt Gallagher (Coventry), Steve Reed (Birmingham), Alan Smallwood (Coventry).



RUGBY LIONS

This season will be about survival, but Rugby have become accustomed to that of late. Yet there is an attractive loyalty among the key personnel — Malik off the field, Bishop on it — that deserves reward.

Director of rugby: Mal Malik.
Coach: Mal Malik.
Captain: David Bishop.
IN: Mark Beauchamp (Bristol), Darnan Cummings (Gloucester), Jim Dicken (Bristol), Peter Jones (Gloucester), Alastair Kennedy (Cambridge University), Mark Pyncham (Northampton), Simon Bridson (Bristol Goldfield), John Stewart (Rugby Lions).
OUT: Mark Palmer (Old Laureians), Trevor Reven (Luton).



BRISTOL

The struggle to force a way into England's top six will continue for Bristol who have lost key personnel in Bracken, Thomas and Archer. If Burke and Jones get at half back, they may capitalise on a useful pack, but there is no obvious sign of a powerful strike force wider out.

Director of rugby: Alan Davies.
Coach: Mike Davis.
Captain: Martin Croft.
IN: Paul Burke (Cork Constitution), Patrick Channery (Munster), David Corkery (Cork Constitution), Robert Jones (Gloucester), Fraser Waters (Bath).
OUT: Gareth Archer (Newcastle), Bob Armstrong (Exeter), Mark Beauchamp (Rugby Lions), Kyan Bracken (Saracens), Jim Dicken (Bristol), Mark Fontaine (Northampton), Jason Keyter (Harlequins), Nick Smith (Gloucester), Aniel Thomas (Gloucester), Ben Harvey (Richmond), Gavin Sharp (Hertford).



LEICESTER

The talent is there, but can Leicester make the philosophical change that proved beyond them last season, when they had to give best to Bath in league, cup and style? Under Dwyer, they will seek a more adventurous policy, in the knowledge that their strong pack can always bail them out.

Director of rugby: Bob Dwyer.
Coach: Ian Smith.
Captain: David Richards.
IN: Gary Austin (Huddersfield RL), Will Greenwood (Harlequins), Austin Healey (Orrell), Craig John (Mossley), Rob Lyle (Sale), Neil Fletcher (Mossley).
OUT: Murray Craig (Nottingham), Jamie Hamilton (London Scottish), Jez Harris (Coventry), Kyan Bracken (Saracens), Andy McKinnon (Coventry), Andy McKinnon (Coventry), Richie Robinson (Coventry), Chris Tarduck (London Scottish).



ORRELL

The onset of professionalism has cost Orrell two-thirds of the team that helped to sustain first-division rugby last season. It is hard to foresee anything other than a struggle.

Director of rugby: Peter Williams.
Coach: Andy Macfarlane.
Captain: To be appointed.
IN: Franco Botica (Cardiff RL), Steve Cook (West Hartlepool), David Gaskell (Liverpool RL), John Hamilton (Bristol), Dan Lupton (Orrell), Paul Rees (Wideningborough), Jason Smith (Waterloo), Stuart Turner (Waterloo).
OUT: Steve Ebb, (Waterloo), Clive Cooper (Exeter), Carl Fenton (Waterloo), Austin Healey (Leicester), Paul Johnson (Leeds), Dan Lupton (Harlequins), Paul Manley (Wakefield), Simon Mason (Richmond), Richard Matthews (Leeds), Peter Mitchell (Worcester), Alan Peacock (Morley), Graeme Smith (Luton), Phil Winstanley (Sale), Ian Wynn (Wakefield).



WASPS

Nothing wrong with the approach and greater strength in the pack this year. The young half-back partnership of Gomersall and King will be critical and this season they are more of a known quantity. When Wasps come good they will be very good and will be worthy of their shared home at Loftus Road.

Director of rugby: Nigel Meville.
Coach: Rob Smith.
Captain: Lawrence Dagglio.
IN: Damien Cronin (Bourges), Mike Griffiths (Cardiff), Alex King (Bristol University), Matthew Lowe (Bridgend), Gareth Rees (Newport), Paul Sempson (Orrell), Chris Shadbaby (Harlequins), Vasilis Tuigamala (Wigan RL).
OUT: Chris Brathwaite (Blackheath), Paul Delaney (Harlequins), Matt Griffiths (Blackheath), Jeff Probyn (Bedford), Steve Sharland (Blackheath), Chris Wilkins (Blackheath).



BLACKHEATH

Another old club with new money, Blackheath have been rebuilding slowly but surely for some seasons now and will be competitive, without taking the division by storm. That, for now, may be enough.

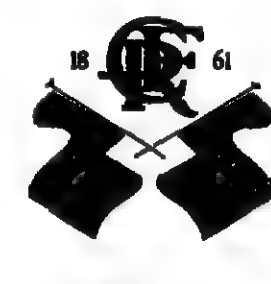
Director of rugby: Iain Easter.
Coach: Danny Vaughan.
Captain: John Gallagher.
IN: Tom Blipes (Old Blues, US), Clive Brathwaite (Wasps), Abi Ekoku (Heaton RL), David Fitzgerald (Swansea University), John Gallagher (Leeds RL), Steve Johnson (Luton), Matt Griffiths (Wasps), Tim Jensen (ACT, Australia), Ray Lester (Old Blues, US), Rob McCordick (Aberdeen), Andy Park (NFC), Chris Pearson (Exeter University), Steve Sharland (Wasps), Mark Skyrup (Mossley), Chris Wilkins (Wasps).
OUT: Alex Codling (Richmond), Matt Stewart (Northampton).



MOSSLEY

All change at The Reddings once more: new coaching staff, new players, some of whom replace those lured down the road by ambitious Worcester. Ansonbe arrives from New Zealand via Ireland, so there should be no shortage of backbones.

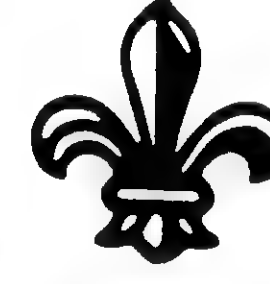
Director of rugby: Mark Ansonbe.
Coach: Mark Ansonbe.
Captain: Andy Houston.
IN: Manu Fala (North Harbour), Daidy Farr (Munster), Carl Hall (Leeds RL), Dan Hams (Birmingham and Solihull), Harry Hurley (Old Wesley), Jason John (unattached), Tim Knight (Stratford), Henry Morgan (King Country, NZ), Craig Quick (Coventry).
OUT: Eral Anderson (Gloucester), Simon Brins (Rotherham), Neil Fletcher (Leicester), Rowan Fuller (Richmond), Neil Martin (Mossley), Simon Mason (Orrell), Andy Moore (Cardiff), Brian Moore (Harlequins), Craig Quinnell (Llanelli), Scott Quinnell (Wigan RL), Sam Rush (Oxford University), Alan Shawley (Blackbrook College), Cameron Short (London Irish), Adam Vander (Bedford), Richard West (Gloucester).
OUT: None.



RICHMOND

It will be instructive to see how many of the XV that won promotion last season find their way into the new era. The key to promotion will be how quickly the newcomers gel.

Director of rugby: John Kingston.
Coach: John Kingston.
Captain: Ben Clifton.
IN: Alan Barham (Gronulla), Clive Clark (Bath), Ben Clarke (Bath), Alex Codling (Blackheath), Steve Connel (Cambridge University), Adrian Davies (Cardiff), Jim Fallon (Leeds RL), Rowan Fuller (Mossley), Ben Harvey (Bristol), Adam Jones (Harlequins), Rob Leach (West Hartlepool), Dan McFarland (Mossley), Neil Martin (Mossley), Simon Mason (Orrell), Andy Moore (Cardiff), Brian Moore (Harlequins), Craig Quinnell (Llanelli), Scott Quinnell (Wigan RL), Sam Rush (Oxford University), Alan Shawley (Blackbrook College), Cameron Short (London Irish), Adam Vander (Bedford), Richard West (Gloucester).
OUT: None.



WAKEFIELD

So long Wakefield have been the banner wavers at club level for the huge rugby-playing population in Yorkshire. They are still ambitious, but stern opposition is arriving from Rotherham. At least the drift across in Penines has slowed and Wakefield's pack should be competitive.

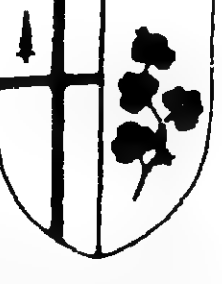
Director of rugby: None.
Coach: Jim Killey.
Captain: Simon Croft.
IN: Jonathan Flint (Orrell), Steve Jones (West Hartlepool), Phil Lancaster (West Hartlepool), Paul Marley (Orrell), Peter Massey (Morley), Richard Thompson (West Hartlepool), Ian Wynn (Orrell).
OUT: Garm Baldwin (Leeds), Nick Green (Leeds), Matthew Inman (Rotherham), Marcus Kelly (Huddersfield), Andy Metcalfe (Gloucester), Matt Smith (Rotherham), Martin Price (Huddersfield).



GLOUCESTER

Without the benefit of a substantial benefactor, Gloucester have entered the transfer market cautiously. They will do well to steer clear of a relegation spot.

Director of rugby: Richard Hill.
Coach: Mike Rayer.
Captain: David Sims.
IN: Eral Anderson (Gloucester), Chris Gelling (Exeter), Scott Edwards (Lynfield), Craig Emerson (Morley), Andy Metcalfe (Wakefield), Alex Morris (Wakefield), Charles Mullaney (Mossley), Ed Pearce (Bath), Paul Price (Lynfield), Alistair Savernut (Coventry), Nick Smith (Orrell), David Tompkinson (Bath), Richard Ward (Haverhill).
OUT: Tom Best (Sale), Hilton Brown (Harlequins), Darnan Cummings (Rugby Lions), Bruce Fentley (Worcester), Virgil Hardland (West Hartlepool), Peter Jones (Gloucester), Peter Miles (Worcester), Jerry Potts (Stroud), Chris Raymond (Worcester), Tim Smith (Worcester), Richard West (Richmond).



LONDON IRISH

Success may depend upon how swiftly their new recruits from Ireland adapt to the Courage league. Woodward's unorthodox coaching will be a welcome addition to the first division, but he needs the heavy metal to underpin everything — hence the addition of Davidson, Costello and Co.

Director of rugby: Frank McCarthy.
Coach: Clive Woodward.
Captain: Gary Halpin.
IN: Victor Costello (St Mary's College), Jeremy Davidson (Dungannon), Keron Dawson (Bangor), Gabriel Fulcher (Cork Constitution), Steve McIvor (Garryowen), Malcolm O'Kelly (St Mary's College), Nigel Richardson (Gloucester), Neil Woods (Blackbrook College).
OUT: Michael Corcoran (Harlequins), Colin Hall (Newbury), Cameron Short (Richmond).



SALE

Sale have recruited heavily from rugby league, which may not necessarily serve their purpose. The loss of Turner will not be easily made up, though Mitchell's back-ground in New Zealand will go a long way in compensation. Competent pack.

Director of rugby: Brian Williamson.
Coach: John Mitchell.
Captain: John Mitchell.
IN: Tom Best (Gloucester), John Davies (Widnes RL), Richard Evers (Leeds RL), Sean Fletcher (Waterloo), Adam Griffin (Salford RL), Adam Hadley (Widnes RL), John Mitchell (Wakefield), Dave Morris (Wideningborough), Phil Winstanley (Orrell), Darren Wright (Fishes RL).
OUT: Phil Gee (Manchester), Paul Hewitt (Bedford), Rob Lyle (Leicester), Guy Parker (Manchester), Paul Turner (Bedford), Nick Wheeler (Manchester), Michael Worsley (Orrell).



WEST HARTLEPOOL

West give a fresh meaning for Welshmen to the old-fashioned phrase "going north". Ring has introduced several of his countrymen, but this may not be enough to keep their heads above water.

Director of rugby: Mark Ring.
Coach: Dave Stubbs.
Captain: Kevin Moseley.
IN: Jamie Connolly (Canterbury), Virgil Hardland (Gloucester), Chris John (Cardiff), Steve John (Cardiff), Wayne de Jonge (New South Wales), Kevin Morgan (Canterbury), Kevin Moseley (Newport), Andrew Peacock (Newport), Mark Rodrick (Newport), Matthew Siva (Newport).
OUT: Andrew Blyth (Newcastle), Steve Cook (Orrell), Anthony Elvine (Bedford), Paul Evans (Middleborough), Paul Hodder (Middleborough), Steve Jones (Wakefield), Phil Lancaster (Wakefield), Rob Leach (Richmond), Martin Shaw (Newcastle), Tim Simpson (Newcastle), Kevin Whitaker (Middleborough).



COVENTRY

Ambitious but less secure financially than some of their rivals. The introduction of first-division know-how, initially from Bristol and now from Leicester, will take them only so far against the bigger spenders as they step up a division.

Director of rugby: Derek Eves.
Coach: Derek Eves.
Captain: Rob Hardwick.
IN: Mark Crane (Clifton), Matt Gallagher (Nottingham), Jez Harris (Leicester), Wayne Nillord (Leicester), Andy McKinnon (Leicester), Derek Redmond (unattached), Richie Robinson (Leicester), Andy Smallwood (Nottingham).
OUT: Richard Angel (Stourbridge), Craig Quick (Mossley), Alistair Savernut (Gloucester).



NEWCASTLE

Newcastle were first out of the blocks last season with the chequebook. Now they must produce a team commensurate with that spending power and nothing short of promotion will do. There should be a battle royal with Richmond for supremacy.

Director of rugby: Rob Andrew.
Coach: Steve Bates.
Captain: Dean Ryan.
IN: Gareth Archer (Bristol), Andrew Blyth (West Hartlepool), George Graham (Cardiff RL), Rose Mesdale (Auckland), Steve O'Neill (Blyth), Martin Shaw (West Hartlepool), Tim Simpson (West Hartlepool).
OUT: Sean Cassidy (Bedford), Ian Chandler (Blyth).



ROTHERHAM

The new driving force in Yorkshire rugby — until Leeds find their way up to the fourth division. Stiffest test yet for players. Wappert, the new coach, is accustomed to success with schools teams and now looks to translate his skills into a higher sphere.

Director of rugby: Steve Cousins.
Coach: Geoff Wappert.
Captain: To be appointed.
IN: Sean Atkinson (Orrell), John Bentley (Huller RL), Simon Brins (Mossley), Alan Buzza (Bedford), Ian Carroll (Orrell), Dan Cook (Orrell), Karl Craggs (West Hartlepool), Guy Easterby (Hartlepool), Nick Miller (Wakefield), Neil Spence (Gloucester), Gavin Webster (Northampton).
OUT: Richard Plant (retired), Steve Worrall (retired).



WATERLOO

Another club to adopt the rugby league tendency, but has little prospect of upsetting the obvious challengers. Respectability will be sufficient as they wait to see which club will come to dominate the North West.

Director of rugby: Richard Greenwood.
Coach: Tosh Ashew.
Captain: Nick Allott.
IN: Marcus Coats (New Brighton), Carl Fenton (Orrell), Jason Green (Widnes RL), Mike Hill (Manchester), Phil Lancaster (West Hartlepool), Gary Monaghan (Luton), David Ruane (Widnes RL), Karl Tarmen (Preston Grasshoppers), Gary Thornley (Widnes RL).
OUT: Stuart Bailey (Widnes), Sean Fletcher (Sale), Jason Smith (Orrell), Stuart Turner (Orrell).

Desktop manoeuvres delay deployment

News that the British are sending troops to a UN peacekeeping force tends to have a ring of effortless. No sooner the word; when do we sail? last one in the personnel carrier is a cissy. This is why we have a standing army, surely, so that when called to run it's already got its socks on. But alas, perhaps our imaginations have been over-influenced by wartime newsreels. That vision of chippy squaddies adjusting blue berets in a wing-mirror and climbing on a bus — of politicians in black coats and homburgs waving handkerchiefs on the quay — is very misleading, and last night's fourth instalment of *Defence of the Realm* (BBC1) may have replaced those images for ever.

Now shirtless young exes at the MoD will lean impatiently against filing cabinets, their specs flashing under office lights, waiting for a decision from the Treas-

ury. Now, on a doomy Salisbury Plain, a sergeant will bark depressing simplistic warnings at his platoon — about the dangers abroad of "sexy ladies", and of landmines that will not only blow your leg off, but possibly interfere with your groin. Ouch. The trouble with deploying troops to Angola for a peacekeeping force, apparently, is that the UN has to organise things at the sharp end (which takes time), meanwhile behind-the-scenes jaw-jaw leaves the eager-and-ready MoD flapping its arms in frustration.

There were incidental pleasures along the way, last night. To my shame, I have never wondered what Captain Tim Laurence does at work all day, but if I had, I would now be a happy woman, having seen him at his desk with a phone in his hand. He was shown receiving bad news from the Treasury, while his name flashed on the screen without any extra

arrows or asterisks to indicate his royal connections. "Hang on, aren't you married to Princess Anne?" I said aloud, and in fact was so confident of this that I even wrote it down. But as if to answer my impertinence, a shot then lingered pointedly on his left hand, bereft of rings, so I crossed it out again. How very confusing. It certainly looked like the Princess Royal's husband. But on the other hand, perhaps it was some unmarked gezer of the same name.

Good to see my colleague Matthew Bond last week returning to *Back to the Wild* (BBC1). Yah, sucker. Thursday nights will not be the same when it's gone. No more injured wildflower hopping round valiantly like Tiny Tim while hardened vets (and human telly reviewers) wipe salt tears out of their eyes. Actually, what happens each week, I've realised, is that

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

when it's time for an animal to be put down (sad, sad music), or for it to be released carelessly into the wild, an emotionally involved female West Hatch helper is obliged to stand and watch from behind a fence, a big tissue ready in her hand. Dead, dead, and never called me mother! No wonder chins wobble across the land. A couple of things worry me about *Back to the Wild*. One is

that I can now spot the tragedy of the week. This time it was an injured deer. The other is that the RSPCA inspector with the white beard seems to drive too fast. As he speeds down country lanes with a hairy squirrel in his pocket, or transports an injured deer (sniff), one suspects he must be hitting little bunnies round every corner, which rather defeats the object. "Or my way," he calls into his mobile phone, and then careers along blind-corned lanes in top gear. Hedgehogs sunning themselves on the tarmac look up to see him coming, but have time only to think "Hoorah for the RSPCA" before — well, you know their catfood and pipette days are over. An injured hedgehog did make an appearance last night, as it happens. And mercifully it was not Stiff of the Week. It had merely lost an eye, and for once the vet was confident that it would survive in the wild, and would not require

euthanasia. "We removed his eye four weeks ago," he said, as he watched the hedgehog snuffle and toddle happily on a table. Now the creature was perfectly fine. "He's never looked back," said the vet, proudly. An unfortunate choice of words, in the circus.

I had intended to write about *The Street* (BBC2) this week, but logistical problems have denied me the privilege. Having watched it in previous weeks, however, I am naturally impressed by its "can-do" attitude to any problem — street-dweller thrown up the privilege. Having watched it in previous weeks, however, I am naturally impressed by its "can-do" attitude to any problem — street-dweller thrown up the privilege. Having watched it in previous weeks, however, I am naturally impressed by its "can-do" attitude to any problem — street-dweller thrown up the privilege.

with the same briskness. An expert gives instant advice; accountable bobs in suits appear in a puff of smoke through a trapdoor. Howzat, problem solved. Come and do my street, Kirsty! You can show the MoD a thing or two about mobilisation.

Turning to Sky One (makes a change): *Southenders started last night*, and if I lived in Southend I'd be asking Kirsty to deal with it pronto. This unflattering portrait of a town and its people began with Blossom, a Beryl Cook kissagram of 53 who joylessly handclaps blocks at their birthday parties, and makes them remove a garb with their teeth. Fag in hand, Threshers carrier bag, struggling to pull her leather coat over four wings, she waits dumpy and sullen outside the venues, and swills with mouthwash. She's doing it to annoy her dead mother, apparently. As good a reason as any, I suppose.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (50818)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (CeeFax) (81189)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (CeeFax) (3805905)
- 9.40am *Burke's Backyard* (r) (5403295)
- 10.10am *Gambit* (1966) with Michael Caine and Shirley MacLaine. Dated caper, about a cockney thief who turns up with a sardonic grin to steal a statue. Directed by Norman Krasna (64314160)
- 12.00pm News (CeeFax) and weather (1192924)
- 12.05pm *The Alphabet Game* (4362127)
- 12.35pm *Neighbours* (CeeFax) (s) (6193030)
- 1.00pm News (CeeFax) and weather (84276)
- 1.30pm *Regional News* and weather (42484479)
- 1.40pm *Small Talk* (r) (CeeFax) (s) (5842358)
- 2.10pm *Lovely* (r) (CeeFax) (s) (3412437)
- 3.00pm *Cartoon* (7221030) 3.30pm *Penny Crayon* (r) (1284858)
- 3.30pm *The Animals of Farthing Wood* (r) (CeeFax) (s) (1638278) 3.55pm *Top Gear* (s) (3015380) 4.10pm *To You* (s) (CeeFax) (2519553) 4.35pm *Pringles* (r) (CeeFax) (s) (1744127) 5.00pm *Newsround* (CeeFax) (4184455) 5.10pm *Record Breakers* (r) (CeeFax) (s) (4810905)
- 5.35pm *Neighbours* (r) (CeeFax) (s) (647672)
- 6.00pm *Six O'Clock News* (CeeFax) (585)
- 6.30pm *Regional News* and weather (837)
- 7.00pm *Top of the Pops* (CeeFax) (s) (1295)
- 7.30pm *Future Fantastic: Immortals* (CeeFax) (s) (721)
- 8.00pm *Safe and Sound*. Dougy decides that life as an executive is putting a strain on his heart (s) (2653)
- 8.30pm *Keeping Up Appearances*. Holding a riverside picnic seems like a good idea, but Hyacinth's arrangements don't go according to plan (r) (CeeFax) (s) (9450)
- 9.00pm News (CeeFax) regional news and weather (7450)
- 9.30pm *One Foot in the Grave*. When Victor has a sleepless night, everybody else suffers his torment (r) (CeeFax) (s) (82721) N.I. 9.30pm *Anderson on the Road* 10.30pm *One Foot in the Grave* 10.50pm *Chicago Hope* 11.35pm *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* 12.00pm *Parkinson: The Interviews* 12.45pm *Film: Pringles* 4.00pm *Weather*
- 10.00pm *Chicago Hope*. Geger's medical licence is suspended when his behaviour on stage at Russo's is reported. Last in the series (CeeFax) (s) (510437)
- 10.50pm *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. The day of the final has arrived and it is time to tie up a few loose ends (CeeFax) (s) (738127)
- 11.20pm *Parkinson: The Interviews* with Edith Evans and Catherine Brannwell Booth (s) (CeeFax) (789011)
- 12.00pm *Film: Pringles* (1988) with Walter Matthau and Chris Campbell. A would-be rolicking, 17th-century adventure set on the high seas. Merconed on a raft in mid-ocean, teenage buccaner Captain Red is on the point of eating his young crewman, Jean-Baptiste, when a Spanish galleon sails into view. Discovering that the ship is carrying an Aztec throne, Captain Red immediately makes plans to capture it for himself. Heavy weather. Directed by Roman Polanski (880508)
- 1.50pm *Weather* (8300219)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. To use the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record, Videoplus+ (V+) and Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: The Regulation of Flowering (3211566) 6.25pm Richard II — Politics, Patriotism and Authority (3223301) 6.50pm *Martina: The Triumphs of Caesar* (2108059)
- 7.15pm *See Hear Breakfast News* (8543832) 7.30pm *Secret Life of Toys* (r) (4807517) 7.45pm *Leslie* (r) (1371943) 8.10pm *John and the Chimpunks* (5826568) 8.35pm *White Fang* (r) (1135519) 9.05pm *The Bots Master* (r) (2439450) 9.25pm *Smart* (r) (Telex) (7072769) 9.50pm *Dilly the Dinosaur* (r) (3663634) 10.00pm *Playdays* (s) (7800214) 10.25pm *The Hollywood Collection* (2372634) 11.15pm *Gunsmoke* (8531479) 12.05pm *Open University* (r) (b/w) (6320924) 12.30pm *Wines of the World* (16617) 1.00pm *Secret Life of Toys* (r) (4541978) 1.15pm *Open View* (2440214) 1.20pm *Open View* (r) (6391216) 1.40pm *Open View* (Telex) (6559127) 1.20pm *Preserving for the Taste of It* (r) (8764567) 2.50pm *A Week to Remember* (b/w) (1031214) 3.00pm *News* (CeeFax) (1271382) 3.05pm *Natural World* (r) (1342905) 3.55pm *News* (CeeFax) (3858653)
- 4.00pm *Film: Blowing Wild* (1953, b/w) with Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck and Anthony Quinn. An oil prospector in 1830s Mexico contends with the attentions of an unsuspicious woman and a ruthless gang of bandits. Directed by Hugo Freponese (61924)
- 5.30pm *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* (r) (8290555)
- 7.05pm *Drift the Mute Swan*. John and Simon King's film follows the experiences of Drift the swan and her mate, Salow, as they raise a family on the tranquil waters of the Somerset Wetlands (r) (CeeFax) (993160)
- 8.00pm *War Walkers* (CeeFax) (s) (8585)
- 8.30pm *Gardeners' World*. Alan Titchmarsh prepares for spring. Valerie Walters visits a Cheshire garden created out of an elegant swamp. And Stephen Jay visits the gardens of Sutton Place (CeeFax) (s) (7092)
- 9.00pm *Bottom: Dough*. Richie and Eddie don't need to buy a lottery ticket because Richie has devised a "get rich quick" plan of his own (r) (CeeFax) (s) (5092)
- 9.30pm *Pulp Video* (80303)
- 10.00pm *The Fall Guy*. Johnny Vaughan asks Danny Brown to take up the challenge to give practical jokes a taste of their own medicine (CeeFax) (s) (73555)
- 10.30pm *Newsnight* (CeeFax) (171301)
- 11.15pm *Edinburgh Nights* (303556)
- 12.00pm *Film: The Pope of Greenwich Village* (1984) starring Mickey Rourke, Eric Roberts and Daryl Hannah. A young New Yorker's loyalty to his cousin lands him in trouble with the police and the Mafia. Directed by Stuart Rosenberg (CeeFax) (37048238) Ends at 2.05am

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am *Quack* (4573160) 6.30pm *Chip 'n' Dale* (4573161) 6.55pm *Chip 'n' Dale* (4573162) 7.20pm *DuckTales* (7108737) 7.45pm *DuckTales* (4542595) 8.10pm *Quack* (4573163) 8.35pm *Quack* (4573164) 8.55pm *Quack* (4573165) 9.20pm *Quack* (4573166) 9.45pm *Quack* (4573167) 10.00pm *Quack* (4573168) 10.25pm *Quack* (4573169) 10.50pm *Quack* (4573170) 11.15pm *Quack* (4573171) 11.40pm *Quack* (4573172) 12.00pm *Quack* (4573173) 12.25pm *Quack* (4573174) 12.50pm *Quack* (4573175) 1.15pm *Quack* (4573176) 1.40pm *Quack* (4573177) 1.65pm *Quack* (4573178) 1.90pm *Quack* (4573179) 2.15pm *Quack* (4573180) 2.40pm *Quack* (4573181) 2.65pm *Quack* (4573182) 2.90pm *Quack* (4573183) 3.15pm *Quack* (4573184) 3.40pm *Quack* (4573185) 3.65pm *Quack* (4573186) 3.90pm *Quack* (4573187) 4.15pm *Quack* (4573188) 4.40pm *Quack* (4573189) 4.65pm *Quack* (4573190) 4.90pm *Quack* (4573191) 5.15pm *Quack* (4573192) 5.40pm *Quack* (4573193) 5.65pm *Quack* (4573194) 5.90pm *Quack* (4573195) 6.15pm *Quack* 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GOLF 43

Woosnam and Co
see red at
British Masters

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 30 1996

TENNIS 46

Young blood
to the fore
at US Open



Israel force
for Arafat
Jerusalem

Top clubs move to leave rugby's union

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S leading rugby union clubs, two days before the start of the sport's first fully-professional season, are on the verge of leaving the Rugby Football Union (RFU) — the body founded by 21 clubs in a London restaurant in 1871.

The management board of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd (Epruc), which met yesterday, is to recommend that the 24 clubs who form the first two divisions in the Courage Clubs Championship sever links with the RFU.

The decision follows three months of increasing frustration after Epruc believed that an accord had been reached with the union last May. If the proposed break is followed through successfully, it

will mean, in effect, the formation of something like the Premier League in football and would leave the RFU in charge of the vast ramp of the sport in England, some 2,000 clubs whose future is as amateurs.

"We have taken this step with considerable reluctance," Donald Kerr, the chairman of Epruc, said, "but, the fact is, the whole organisation at Twickenham is paralysed by the in-fighting between rival parties. We cannot sit back and wait, not knowing when that may or may not be resolved — we have to embrace professionalism and make our plans."

"We are dealing with a game now involving serious financial commitments, and time is not on our side."

The RFU is already braced for a significant blow in the form of expulsion from the five nations'

championship, but it had hoped that its clubs would go with it in the "seamless" game that it has been desperately trying to construct since August last year, when the International Rugby Football Board declared that the sport should go open. Instead, nearly every action that is taken has blown up in its face, bedevilled by the squabble between rival committee factions that has centred on the role and personality of the chairman of the union's executive committee.

There are now two factions, one perceived as reformers and including Tony Hallett, the secretary of the RFU, and Colin Hurrell, the treasurer, and the other led by Cliff Brittle, the executive committee chairman who took up his post last January.

Brittle was swept to power by the



Complete club-by-club guide to the first and second divisions, page 45

overwhelming vote of the small clubs — those who remain broadly unaffected by the advent of professionalism — but the entry into rugby of wealthy businessmen has created an entirely new factor in the game: that of a controlling

interest which expects money to buy success and which will not wait for rugby's often-tortuous decision-making to take effect.

The businessmen who now run several influential clubs met last month and are all agreed on the need to take control to protect combined investments now amounting to more than £30 million a year.

Nine of the 24 clubs involved in the threatened breakaway — Bath, Northampton, Saracens, Wasps, Bedford, Blackheath, London Scottish, Newcastle and Richmond — now have owner-investors and three more have acquired substantial funding through other means. Those clubs which are still member-led will take Epruc's recommendation to their membership over the next three weeks.

It is vital that the clubs stick

together if they are to make their move effective, for implicit in their decision is the need to establish their own governing body and, if necessary, their own logistical structure, since the RFU might reasonably conclude that the clubs no longer wish to participate in the union's competitions, nor benefit from the union's administration, which includes existing sponsorship agreements.

The union's officials, who were in conclave in London last night, were said to be "disappointed" at the Epruc decision, though they have yet to discover the scale of the threatened departure.

Taken to extremes, there will be two bodies involved in rugby in England, one catering exclusively for the professional clubs and one for the rest, though one leading club figure last night suggested

that, in time, the two sides would get back together.

There will be some within the RFU who will wish to wash their hands of the rebels, though this would mean also taking a back seat in the world game. An England XV raised from outside the top two divisions would not be competitive.

There will also be questions raised about the contract made by the union with BSkyB (the satellite broadcasting company part-owned by News International, the owner of *The Times*) which caused the break between England and the other home unions. Part of that contract provided for funds to go to the clubs, which the RFU could now withdraw.

There are so many questions for a sport whose horizons could be so bright, yet continues with its feet firmly in a quagmire.

England make their pitch for one-day double

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (Pakistan won last; England beat Pakistan by five wickets)

A PITCH of treacherous appearance and stifling conduct ensured that the first of three Texaco Trophy games fell dismally flat as an entertainment yesterday. England, however, will be unconcerned by such aesthetics. Victory, gained with quiet authority and with 20 balls in hand, came as a swift and reviving tonic after the depression of Test defeat.

No one needed the tonic more than Michael Atherton, and no one did more to earn it. The England captain was visibly and audibly deflated after the Oval Test. He seemed like a man who had suffered quite enough disappointments and heard one too many excuses. He is aware that a captain must be positive at all times, but he was finding it an unusual strain.

One limited-overs win does not provide a cure, only a consolation, but Atherton approached the day impressively. His handling of a limited attack was adroit and effective in restricting Pakistan to 225 for five and, after a tactical

change in the batting order, he entered at No 3 to supervise the successful chase with an innings of mature selectivity. His 65, made from 93 balls, won him the man-of-the-match award.

England, then, won with some comfort, and proceed to Edgbaston tomorrow with every chance of securing the Texaco double, after their victory over India in May. Pakistan will be stung, for they did themselves and their massive talent no justice here.

Letters 19
Simon Barnes 44
Lewis bounces back 44

even with the advantage of winning the toss.

Wasim Akram made the obvious decision to bat, for the nature of the pitch indicated that it would behave capriciously from the start and deteriorate. In fact, it was consistent, if only in its inconsistencies, and while it was never easy to bat on — and its lack of pace was restrictive — it was neither dangerous nor unplayable. It did, however,

make for an extraordinary sight. An international game in England can seldom have begun on a surface with such wide and crumbling cracks. Peter Marren, the Lancashire groundsman, spoke with candid embarrassment when he said that he would not be happy staging a Sunday league game on it.

The entire Old Trafford square looks a mess, patchy and balding, and Lancashire are making urgent plans to restore it, starting with the re-laying of two pitches next year. They have produced some of the best pitches in the country in recent years and it is to be hoped that this is no more than a transitory problem, for there is to be an Ashes Test here next summer.

The ground will be packed then, just as it was yesterday. All 21,000 tickets were sold more than a month ago and after seeing England win — and a one-day game blessedly finish in one day — most spectators probably went home happy. Not many will have left with their hearts beating faster, though, for excitement was in desperately short supply.

For this, the England bowlers must take some credit. Confronted by an opening pair, Aamir Sohail and Saeed Anwar, who love the freedom that the 15-overs fielding restrictions now permit, they bowled with such parsimony and precision that Pakistan were, in horse-racing terms, left in the stalls. They made 22 off ten overs and 38 off 15, by which time Aamir had mustered three singles and proceeded, via anxiety and frustration, to near-helpless laughter.

Mullally's initial spell of seven overs cost only 11 runs and Gough suffered little by comparison. Pakistan's only consolation was the retention of wickets and the knowledge that England, mindful of the potential batting hazards, had chosen only five bowlers, of whom the vulnerable Irani was one and the newcomer, Headley, another.

It was, however, Irani who divided the openers in the 24th over. Saeed miscuing to long-on. Croft, whose fast, probing off spin was tailored to the conditions, then bowled ten tidy overs for the wickets of



Atherton, the England captain and man of the match, glances at a ball from Mushtaq just wide of Moin's grasp at Old Trafford yesterday

OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD

Pakistan won last

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Mullally b Irani 57
(89min, 75 balls, 7 fours)

Aamir Sohail b Croft 48
(145min, 117 balls, 2 fours)

Ijaz Ahmed c Irani b Mullally 48
(78min, 56 balls, 4 fours)

*Wasim Akram b Croft 2
(9min, 6 balls, 1 four)

Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 37
(42min, 28 balls, 4 fours)

Moin Khan b Gough 10
(15min, 9 balls, 2 fours)

Saleem Malik not out 6
(13min, 9 balls)

Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 7) 13

Total (5 wickets, 50 overs, 189min) : 225

Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Asim Rehman and Sajjan Mushtaq did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82 (Aamir 22), 2-141 (Ijaz 26), 3-160 (Ijaz 38), 4-174 (Inzamam 4), 5-222 (Inzamam 21).

BOWLING: Gough 10-0-44-1 (w 2, 5 fours; 5-0-16-0, 2-0-0-0, 3-0-20-1); Mullally 10-3-31-1 (5 fours; 7-3-11-0, 3-0-20-1); Headley 10-0-28-0 (w 2, 4 fours; 4-5-17-0, 4-0-18-0, 2-0-17-0); Irani 10-0-58-1 (w 2, 4 fours; 2-0-15-0, 2-0-15-0, 2-0-12-2); Croft 10-1-38-2 (2 fours; 2-1-24-0, 2-0-12-2).

Score after 15 overs: 38-0

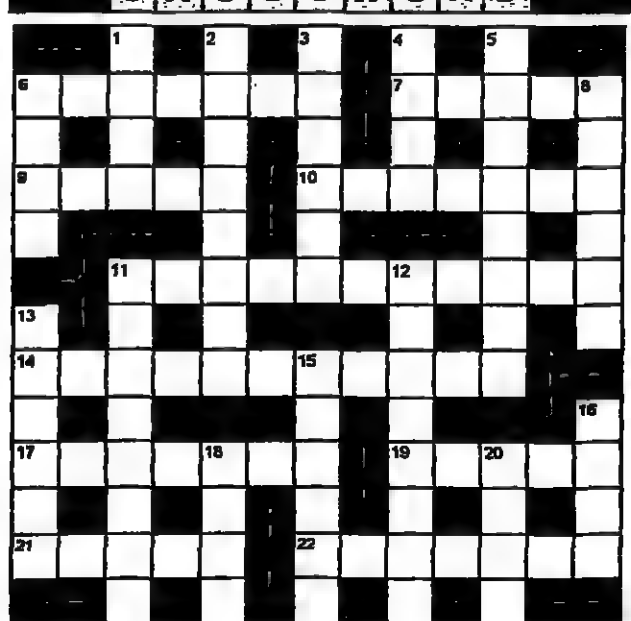
ENGLAND

N V Knight c Moin b Wasim 26
(42min, 34 balls, 2 fours)

TA J Stewart bow b Wasim 48
(84min, 58 balls, 5 fours)

*Compiled by Bill Frindell

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 874

ACROSS

- 6 Shortage (7)
- 7 Handled; issued cards (5)
- 9 Large, thin, oblong piece (5)
- 10 Holder for gun (7)
- 11 Succeeded without knockout (3,2,6)
- 14 Scrupulously exact (11)
- 17 Gossip (slang) (7)
- 19 Country, sounds cold (5)
- 21 Throw out (5)
- 22 He suggests a horse (7)

DOWN

- 1 Third gospel (4)
- 2 Clearly separate (8)
- 3 Word-joining mark (6)
- 4 A worshipped image (4)
- 5 A battle; a chess tournament; a Bengal governor (8)
- 6 Peddle; thrust (4)
- 8 Beat (harvested corn) (8)
- 11 Capital of Manitoba (8)
- 12 Ear-inspecting device (8)
- 13 Money as coins (6)
- 15 Papal representative (6)
- 16 Fright (4)
- 18 Steam power pioneer; power unit (4)
- 20 Gk. letter; tiny bit (4)

The solution to 873 will be published Wednesday, September 4

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Boardman wins gold in record style

By PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN has endured a long and tough 1996, but after the trials of the Tour de France and the demanding conditions of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, he enjoyed his moment of triumph yesterday, regaining the world 4,000 metres pursuit championship at the Manchester velodrome in a world record time. Fastest throughout the competition, Boardman beat the Olympic champion, Andrea Collinelli, of Italy, for the gold medal.

Until the halfway mark of the final, the Briton was trailing his opponent, but then he began to get his gear rolling smoothly and reduced a deficit that, at one time, had

been more than a second, lap by lap. When Boardman finally took the lead, it was at a speed that surprised even his greatest admirers and he finished in an extraordinary time, 4min 11.14sec, beating the record he had set himself earlier in the competition by 2.23sec. Collinelli, who tired and slowed after his initial efforts, finished in 4min 20.34sec. He had never been beaten by such a wide margin.

Boardman's win brought him his second world pursuit title and the fourth in four years for Great Britain, with Graeme Obree, of Scotland, taking the crown in 1993 and 1995. Boardman, who came to fore when winning the Olympic pursuit championship in

Barcelona in 1992, achieved his first world pursuit success in Palermo in 1994, the same year he won the world time trial championship. He returned to the Olympics this year and, in hot and humid conditions that did not suit him, he won a bronze medal in the time trial behind the Spaniards, Miguel Indurain and Abraham Olano.

The signs that Boardman was ready to win his second pursuit title were there in yesterday's semi-finals. Having seen Collinelli win his encounter with Francis Moreau, of France — the Italian again setting a blistering early pace and then holding on to record a time of 4min 16.14sec, his fastest ever —

Boardman went to the line knowing that he need be only concerned with beating Alexei Markov, of Russia. His time was the passport to the final.

Markov came out of his starting gate like a whippet and while Boardman was concerned with getting his high gear moving smoothly, the Russian established a lead of almost a second through the first kilometre. However, Boardman, to the ecstatic roar of the crowd, almost caught Markov. The fast start had taken its toll on the Russian but, in the final kilometre, Boardman drew inexorably ahead, finishing in 4min 15.00sec. Moreau's time of 4min 19.66sec won bronze.

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Israel forces ready for Arafat's big Jerusalem march

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI troops and police reinforcements have been brought into Jerusalem after Palestinians declared they would break the law today with a mass pilgrimage to pray in the Holy City.

Palestinian leaders said the action would go ahead despite agreement yesterday from Israel that both sides would return to the negotiating table next week. Police said they had been placed on high alert to maintain order.

The protest will mark the second day of a campaign of civil disobedience against Israel called by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority chairman, who said the Jewish state had declared war on his people.

Mr Arafat wants Palestinians to defy an Israeli military closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by attempting to enter Jerusalem today to pray at Al Aqsa mosque in the old city. He said the demonstrations were to protest at the decisions of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who allowed an expansion of Jewish settlements on the West Bank and the demolition of a Palestinian centre in Jerusalem.

Within hours of a four-hour general strike yesterday — the first such action by Palestinians in two years — against Israeli policies, Dan Shomron,

a senior Israeli government official and former military commander, and Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian chief negotiator, met in Jerusalem and agreed to reopen talks next week. Mr Erekat and Mr Shomron are chairmen of the joint Israeli-Palestinian committee overseeing the peace process. Both men said their discussions had been positive. Despite the encouraging development, Mr Erekat said Palestinians still had a point to prove about religious freedom and for this reason, the planned mass march to Jerusalem would not be called off. He said all Palestinians should be able to come and pray at Al Aqsa, the third holiest site in the Muslim world.

"I think that people should be entitled to worship in Jerusalem in the holy places of Muslims and Christians and we have been urging the Israeli Government to lift the closure from around Jerusalem and to have people conduct their religious duties as normally as possible," he said.

Mr Erekat added that Mr Arafat's criticism of Israel was designed to save the peace process, not destroy it. "Mr Arafat's statements should not be taken out of their proper context. It was a clear-cut message of peace to the Israeli public. It is not a secret that

the status of peace is slipping like sand through our fingers. We believe that the expansion of Jewish settlements, confiscation of land and terror should belong to the past. It was a message to save the peace process. And I think our intention today is to give an immediate answer by starting the implementation of the [Israeli-Palestinian peace] agreement."

Mr Shomron also expressed optimism about the future of Palestinian-Israeli relations. "Today's meeting was a very good one because it was very frank and there was a recognition on both sides that we have to work out misunderstandings by regular meetings."

He pledged continuous meetings from next week. The advances made in these discussions would help to "lower the level of tensions that we have seen recently."

However, tension flared last night when an Israeli soldier was killed by Muslim guerrillas who ambushed an Israeli patrol at Blat, close to the border in south Lebanon.

Dore Gold, Mr Netanyahu's chief political adviser, met Mr Arafat yesterday and was scheduled to hold talks with Abu Mazen, a senior Palestinian official. The discussions could pave the way for a meeting between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat.

Colony's troops begin pullout

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

BRITISH forces will today start a ten-month withdrawal from Hong Kong after more than 150 years. The departing commander, Major-General Bryan Dutton, yesterday urged the Chinese to state whether their soldiers will be subject to Hong Kong criminal and civil law.

General Dutton said that while Hong Kong's internal security can be handled by the local police, the Chinese garrison, perhaps 8,000 men, will be a frontier defence force, but it would also maintain internal security if required by the local government and approved by Peking.

British soldiers are subject to military, Hong Kong and British law, the general said. "We have explained to the Chinese that they must explain to the people of Hong Kong how they will relate to the law."

The strength of British forces in Hong Kong is now 3,500. Over the coming months civilian support units will be disbanded, and many installations closed. Some Gurkhas will be demobilised and returned to Nepal, others will be stationed in Britain.

The First Battalion the Black Watch will arrive next year for the handover. On June 30, 1997, the final forces will sail away in a frigate and a supply ship, leaving the general said, "with heads held high and in style."

Livingstone denied title of 'liberator' in Zimbabwe

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

DAVID LIVINGSTONE, the Scottish missionary who helped to drive the slave trade out of southern Africa, is to be stripped of his description as "liberator" by the Zimbabwean Government.

Since 1954 the statue of the mild-mannered doctor has overlooked the roaring water of the Devil's Cataract of the Victoria Falls in the northwest of the country, where he stood in awe in November 1855 as the first white man to see the world's largest waterfall.

Dumiso Dabengwa, the Minister of Home Affairs, has given orders that the word "liberator," which appears on a large bronze ring round the base of the statue, is to be removed. "David Livingstone should not be considered as a 'liberator,'" Mr Dabengwa said in parliament yesterday.

He had been asked by Anes Chigwedere, an MP of the ruling Zanu (PF) Party who is also a controversial historian: "Who was liberated by David Livingstone in Zimbabwe for his statue to be labelled 'the liberator'?"

During his epic African journeys, Livingstone often came into contact with Arab slave traders, several times risking his life. He later gave lectures across Britain on the brutality of slavery. That generated a surge of outrage regarded as one of the main pressures which made the British Government press its European trading partners to suppress slavery.

"I am horrified," said a Zimbabwean historian who asked not to be named. "It is so petty. It is pathetic."

Sources in the museums department said, however, that the casting of a new bronze ring would be very expensive. "I don't know where the money for it will come from," one official said. "We can't even afford to have photocopying done."



Livingstone's statue at Victoria Falls which is to lose the word "liberator"

Khartoum sows seeds of Islamic terror in region

BY MARK HUBAND, NORTH AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE rapid deterioration of relations between Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist Government and neighbouring states has placed the region on a permanent alert despite efforts to force the Khartoum Government to end its policy of regional destabilisation.

There is open hostility to the increasingly isolated Government of Major-General Omar Hassan al-Bashir. Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda accuse it of backing militant groups intent on installing Islamic governments in their countries.

Last month Osama al-Baz, political adviser to President Mubarak of Egypt, claimed that 15,000 Muslim militants were living in military training camps in Sudan. It was the first time the scale of Sudan's role as a haven for militants had been identified.

Sudan's failure to explain the role of the militants has

heightened suspicion that they will find their way into militant groups throughout the Islamic world. Three men identified by Egypt as having attempted to assassinate President Mubarak in Ethiopia last

"Sudan is a gathering place for the world's terrorists, and they're going to destabilise us"

year are regarded by Egypt as reflecting Sudan's regional strategic aims. The three have since left for Afghanistan. Previously, Sudan's alleged backing for international terrorism had been based on

assumptions, largely due to its provision of a haven for groups opposed to the Middle East peace process and Arab regimes backed by America.

The Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) presence in Khartoum highlights this supportive role. "We have an Islamic project. We have the same project, and we are going to carry out this project in all Islamic countries," Mounir Said, the Hamas representative in Khartoum, said.

The Khartoum Government is intent on playing in Africa the role that Iran plays in Central Asia and the Middle East — being at the vanguard of the Islamic revival movement. To this end, the Arab-Israeli conflict is conveniently incorporated into Sudan's political rhetoric.

"Israel is in Kenya, Uganda and with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. The main supplier to the SPLA is Israel. Israel has an Africa project. That makes its interests contradictory to ours, because it wants to promote the cult of hatred in Sudan," Ghazi Salah Eddin, a Sudanese official, said.

Last year Uganda severed diplomatic ties with Sudan after accusing Khartoum of supporting rebels of the Christian fundamentalist Lord's Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony, a long-time opponent of President Museveni of Uganda. "Sudan has provided uniforms, mines, mortars, light machineguns, and bases around Torit and Nimule," Colonel Kahinda Otiatire, Uganda's Security Minister, said. "They have also been preparing Ugandan groups for Islamisation."

The severing of ties came four months after Eritrea did the same, on the ground that Sudan had provided military training to Eritrean Islamic extremists at a military base near refugee camps in north-eastern Sudan housing 500,000 Eritreans. "We have lists of Eritreans training in several military camps," Saleh Keki, Eritrea's Deputy Foreign Minister, said.

"We gave the lists to Khartoum and asked for these people to be handed over to us, but there's been no response. Sudan is a gathering place for all the world's terrorists, and they're going to destabilise us by any means. They have intentions for the whole region," he declared.

Mr Keki named Nafi Ali Nafi, Sudan's Minister for Internal Security, as the mastermind behind the military training programme, whose strategy is a part of the Islamic programme of Hassan al-Toumari, leader of the National Islamic Front, and the real power behind President al-Bashir's Government.

One Western diplomat in the region said this week: "Something has to be done to change the course of Sudan's policies. If they don't change their policies, then they are digging their own grave."

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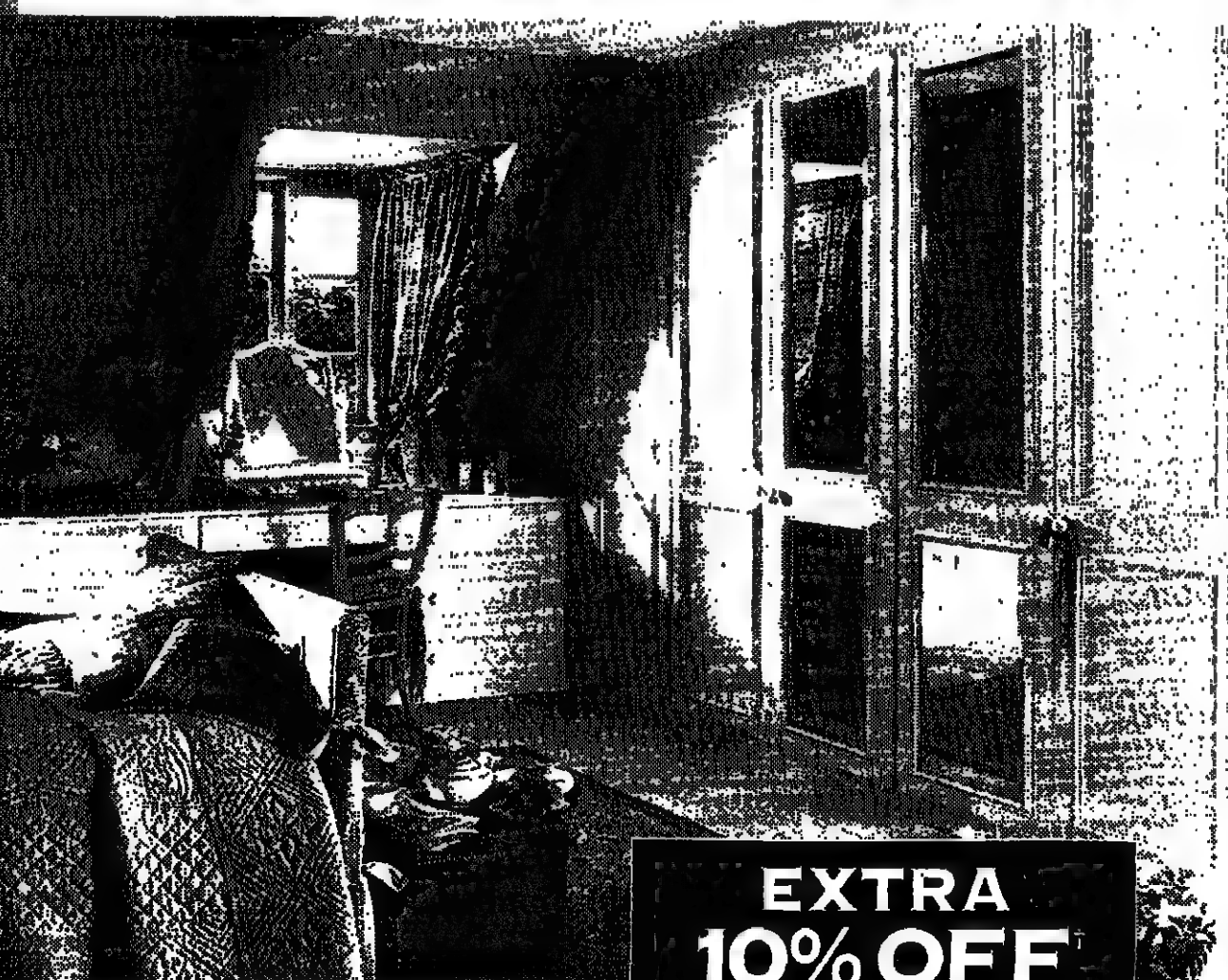
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Rifkind attacks India on Kashmir

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN BARELY veiled criticism of India's framework for next month's controversial local assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Malcolm Rifkind yesterday denounced the intimidation of voters by both the security forces and separatists.

"If the elections are to succeed, they must be free and fair," the Foreign Secretary said in a speech in Delhi. The electorate must feel safe enough to exercise the right to vote, but those who did not wish to do so should also have their wishes respected.

Terrorism, he added, must not be allowed to trample on democracy. "Violence cannot replace dialogue. When trust has crumbled, it must be rebuilt."

Mr Rifkind said that Kash-

mir was an issue of "great parliamentary and public interest" in Britain. The Government was anxious that any opportunity for peace should be seized.

Later, in an interview, he called for international observers to monitor the polls. "That is not currently on offer," he added. Nevertheless, Britain and other members of the international community would keep an eye on the elections.

Mr Rifkind also criticised India for not signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). This refusal, he said, could lead to the failure of the treaty. The cause of nuclear disarmament, of which India had long been a strong exponent, would be seriously set back.



An Indian soldier is rescued from the Srinagar building used by paramilitary border forces after it was damaged by a bomb yesterday

He recognised that India had the right to make its own decision on the treaty in the light of its security interests. But, he said, the treaty would work only if all the countries involved agreed to it. If one country refused to sign, others

might judge that it was not in their interests to do so, he said. Mr Rifkind's remarks on Kashmir, a subject of enormous sensitivity in both India and Pakistan, will be closely analysed by both countries. Two years ago Douglas Hurd

angered Pakistan by suggesting that negotiations should be based on present realities rather than the situation at the time of India's independence. His successor's remarks coincided with an upsurge of violence in Srinagar, the

Kashmir capital. A bomb in a crowded marketplace yesterday injured 11 people and started a fire that destroyed eight shops. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility. Police said the bomb was hidden inside a shop on the

ground floor of a building also used to house paramilitary border troops. They said a soldier saw a man placing a box near a shop, but he fled before he could be caught. They suspect the bomb was detonated by remote control.

WORLD SUMMARY

Mother Teresa on the mend

Calcutta: Mother Teresa, recuperating in a Calcutta hospital from malaria and heart trouble, pleaded with doctors yesterday to let her go back to her work with the poor and destitute.

Dr Dinamoni Banerjee said the 86-year-old nun, who has been in hospital for nine days, would be released from the intensive care unit in two days and placed in a post-cardiac unit. He said she was allowed to sit in a chair yesterday and would be permitted to walk today. "After that we will be able to pronounce her to be totally out of danger," Dr Banerjee said. (Reuters)

Leader refuses to be cowed

Jakarta: Megawati Sukarnoputri, Indonesia's embattled opposition leader, is refusing to bow to growing pressure to withdraw her legal action against the Government, the military and rebels within her own party. She is also refusing to settle out of court unless her opponents concede that she was illegally ousted as leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party.

Tamil rebels kill 29 in ambush

Colombo: At least 29 people, including four civilians, were killed when Tamil rebels ambushed a police patrol in eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said. Among the dead were 24 policemen and a paramilitary trooper. Ten policemen and three civilians were injured in the biggest rebel attack in more than a month. (AP)

Corsica bomb wrecks offices

Ajaccio: Separatist guerrillas planted two bombs at government offices on the French island of Corsica in spite of fresh warnings of a crack-down, police said. One bomb seriously damaged two floors of the Agriculture Ministry offices. The second device was defused before it could explode. (Reuters)

Harare staff get 20 per cent rise

Harare: The Zimbabwean Government awarded civil servants a 20 per cent pay rise yesterday to end a ten-day strike, but workers stayed on the streets to press for some dismissed staff to be reinstated. Inflation has been 25 per cent on average over the past two years. (Reuters)

Serbs fire at Muslim refugees in village

FROM REUTERS
IN MAHALA, BOSNIA

NATO troops detained 46 Serbs yesterday, many of them policemen, after gunmen fired at Muslim refugees returning to homes in a Serb-controlled village on Bosnia's postwar boundary line.

No casualties were reported after the shooting in the remote northeastern hamlet of Mahala, but some Muslims were badly beaten by club-wielding Serbs, United Nations police monitors said.

The incident reflected rising nationalist tension among Muslims, Serbs and Croats as Bosnia lurches towards internationally organised general elections on September 14. The 1995 Dayton peace accord assures refugees the right to reclaim homes in safety, but ultra-nationalists on all sides, especially the Serbs, have flouted this rule with impunity.

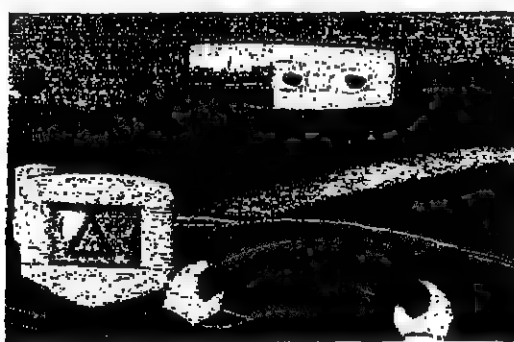
Muslims who had been resettling the abandoned village of Mahala in keeping with Dayton had no weapons, and the UN denounced the Serb attack as "unprovoked and extremely uncalled for". The 46 Serbs detained had been armed with clubs and automatic rifles.

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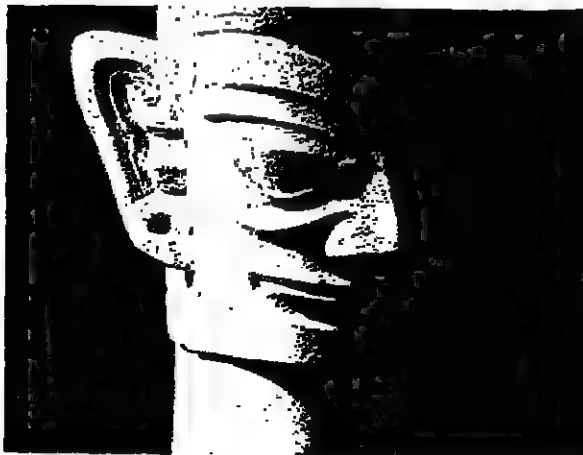


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Pictures like this gave Towell a place in one of the world's most exclusive clubs. "Moses moping about not being able to go into town" — a photograph from the Towell family album

Focus on a family man

Like we all do, Larry Towell takes pictures of his family. Only he does it rather better than the rest of us. When the photographers at Magnum saw his work, they were blown away by the sublime shots of a woman in a pickup truck, child beside her eating a pear; the baby in a pail in the garden; and the pregnant mother and daughter lying naked on a bed.

Larry Towell's images of family life in the backwoods have placed him among the world's great photographers, says **Candida Crewe**

zones of the world. But on happening upon Towell's photographs of the ordinary life of peasants in Central America, and later seeing those of his wife and children on their farm in Ontario, they welcomed him to their fold before anyone else had had the chance to get wind of this tucked-away genius.

Towell is a tall man with pale skin and a beard. At a café near Magnum's London office, he tucks into a huge breakfast — he has a farmer's

appetite. He is slightly gruff and shy, but falls well short of being hick. According to his either rather outdated, or extremely modest, business card, Towell is a "Human Being". He is also a full member of the highly exclusive photographic agency which was started in 1947 by, among others, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Capa, and which is still probably the most difficult "club" to enter in the world.

The rigorous selection process takes four to five years. There are rarely more than 40 members, from Paris to London, from New York to Japan — and, since 1993, to Bothwell, Ontario (where Towell now lives).

Towell is one of the more eccentric members. Quite often, when showing his pictures to his colleagues, he accompanies the slide-show with a few of his own songs on the guitar. This is not the usual Magnum practice.

Towell was born in Chatham, Ontario, in 1953, one of eight children of a poor auto-repair man. His mother would buy the family's clothes at the Salvation Army, and once found there "a little treat" for the 13-year-old Towell in the form of a Kodak box camera.

"She'd buy the film and process it for me at 95 cents for 12 exposures," he recalls. "I think I took one, maybe two, rolls a year. It wasn't exactly a passion."

At university in Toronto, while studying visual arts, he did a one-month photographic course and graduated to three rolls of film. It was a long and more indirect route which led him into photography as a career, via a stint of voluntary work in Calcutta in Mother Teresa's community, and afterwards, back home, living for nearly three years in poverty and virtual isolation on a home-made raft, eating just carrots and oatmeal and catfish, and writing poetry. He married Ann, the woman who regularly features in his photographs, in 1978.

An interest in Central America led him to Nicaragua, where he made a record of the revolution through the eyes of the civilians. Back home, he wondered what to do with his photographs. "I'd seen inter-

THE SUNDAY TIMES

HEARTBEAT

Philip Norman, rock'n'roll's foremost biographer, tells the real story behind the heartache of Buddy Holly. Only in The Sunday Times this weekend.

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subject matter, he does have a particular interest in land and landlessness. "Land makes people into who they are, and when they lose it, they lose their identity."

But there is still an enduring opinion among his fans that his pictures of his own family are among his best — those which so moved and swayed the hardened men of Magnum when he was up for membership — even if they're not the normal Magnum fare.

Towell believes that all photography is essentially about the family. "War and famine is about families in dire conditions," he says. He has a 75-acre farm in Ontario where, he says, "it makes sense to take pictures of my own family. I leave the camera in the kitchen, and occasionally just take it off the fridge to take pictures. The family is a very important force in one's life. The photographer has to learn to negotiate through life. When you have a family it teaches you to do just that, to give and to take of life."

Larry Towell's exhibition *Family Album* will take place at the Zelda Cheate Gallery from October 15 to November 22.

For three years he lived in poverty, writing poetry

esting pictures in papers and magazines with the Magnum name on. I thought it just must be a photo library, and I could sell my photographs to it." He sent off some slides and, to his surprise, got a call summoning him to New York.

"They said I could become a nominee [two-year apprentice], I thought, 'let's just try this thing'. It wasn't till about a year later, after going into bookstores and talking to other photographers, that I began to discover what Magnum really was! It was then I realised I ought to become a photographer."

"My work hasn't got an easy market," Towell admits. While it has earned him the accolades of his peers, it has not made him rich. "It's not commercial," he says. Recently he did a series of pictures of cows. Canadian cows leading ordinary lives are not exactly the stuff of hard international news. He refuses to go on assignments, nor does he ever work in colour.

"For me, black and white has a personal latitude, has room for the photographer to move about. Photography has many similarities with poetry... Black and white is minimalist, just as poetry is like literature with the water squeezed out." As for his

Will Cherie do a Hillary?

Labour is struggling with the temptation of a Blair-Booth ticket, says Joe Joseph

After Hillary Clinton's startling re-birth at this week's Democratic convention in Chicago, new Labour's spin-doctors are chewing their nails over whether or not to let Cherie Blair follow in her footsteps and make an historic speech at this autumn's Labour Party conference in Blackpool.

It could turn out to be the most tantalising showbiz coup since the Kinnocks' Sheffield rally. Yes, that's right, Labour's spin-doctors aren't sure whether to chance their luck again.

Nevertheless, many Tories suspect that this is precisely the plan Labour has up its sleeve, though they won't say whether they relish or fear it.

So far, Cherie Booth, as she prefers it, has concentrated on her own Bar career. Whereas Tony will offer an opinion on Weeabix if it gets him on to News At Ten, Cherie speaks in public only expensively, on behalf of her clients, or passionately, on behalf of charities that care for battered women and abused children.

Being smart — possibly smarter than her husband — Cherie is assumed to play Lady Macbeth to Tony, in the same way that Hillary is assumed to pull the strings that work Bill, a man who couldn't even figure out how to smoke a joint but who now runs the world's biggest economy.

Blair also hears the whispers, which is why he tried to kill talk that British voters would get "two-for-one" by saying: "Cherie is a successful woman in her own right. She has no desire to do my job."

Yet while Labour's spin-doctors were still struggling yesterday to evaluate the impact of Hillary Clinton's address, political circles here were already abuzz over whether a speech by Cherie at Blackpool would turn wavering career women into Labour voters, or shatter their idealism by suggesting that at the final hurdle Cherie "Call me Booth" Blair had

willingly turned herself into a syrupy, dutiful Stepford Wife.

But hang on. Might not the sight of one of Britain's most powerful female bar-risters looking dreamily but mutely at her husband not also make the Labour faithful wonder if she had crumpled into the role of loyal wife?

It's tricky. Germaine Greer fears new Labour might study this dilemma and jump the wrong way. "Cherie Blair has a life and a profession of her own," Greer says. "If she was playing loyal wife she would be getting big hair and heavy make-up and the little suit and the 4in heels to stagger round the party conference à la Oprah Winfrey, telling the delegates just how big a man her man is. Cherie Blair is one of the few things new Labour is handling properly."

Greer's free advice? "Get off her back." It is a view echoed by many Labour lights, who buttonhole you to tell you that while there have been several attempts to create parallels between Cherie Blair and Hillary, Britain's First Lady-in-Waiting is a private person, whereas Hillary Clinton has always been a very public person.

This faction insists that Cherie doesn't need to speak at Labour's conference to be seen as someone who balances an important job with being a successful Islington mother who does a wonderful job of raising her family — a combination which already makes her a marvellous role model for women all over Britain.

The Tories are waiting and watching. "I'm sure there'll be considerable interest in Cherie Blair at the Labour conference," a pert voice at Central Office says, "because she is the first wife of a party leader to have stood for office in her own right, and that was back in 1983."

And will Norma Major be speaking at the Conservatives' conference in Bournemouth? "I really couldn't comment on that!"



Cherie: tantalising



Hillary: reborn

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Cherie a Hillary?



By now he is drinking wine quite fast and eating huge platefuls of school dinner lodge. He has given up smoking, he says, but he asks for one of mine. He admits

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Blair must be more offensive

David Goodhart says voters feel patronised by Labour blandness

How should the Labour Party manage the inevitable drop in its opinion poll ratings between now and the election? John Prescott, Labour's chipper Willie Whitelaw, believes the party needs more policy rigour and less spin-doctoring. In this he seems to speak for Clare Short, most of old Labour, the Left, and even some Blairite loyalists. But is he right?

When a party has evolved as rapidly as Labour has in the past two years it is bound to have a fuzzy identity among activists and voters. I am a sceptical social democrat who will vote for Blair, but when I sit down to list the things which Labour would definitely do in office, I could come up with only three or four.

This did not cause me to lose sleep because like most voters, I am not very interested in specific policies. I am, however, delighted that Tony Blair has converted the party back to Gaitskellite social democracy, shorn of the Bevanites and the overnight unions. I am pleased, too, that the apparition has taken over from the anarchists in running the party — *pae Austin Mitchell.*

I feel confident that if Blair could write an honest single-paragraph manifesto to it would read something like this: "Look, politics can only change things at the margin in most people's lives, so let us not promise the earth. Many of the changes of the past 17 years are either desirable or irreversible. It is now our job to tame the excesses of the market and to improve the life-chances of people at the bottom of the heap where we can. Apart from the odd radical flourish — just as likely to be inspired by the values of the "Right" as of the "Left" — we will manage the status quo better than the Tories."

The Labour Party now has lots of policies which flow from such a sober approach, as I discovered when — shamed by my ignorance — I acquired some party documents. The policies turn out to be exceedingly dull and technocratic (with the notable exceptions of the minimum wage and Scottish devolution). In education, for example, Labour has accepted most of the Conservative reforms but has plans for three of four minor amendments — such as changing the basis of school league tables — which will be appreciated only by education insiders.

No wonder many of the activists inspired by Blair's slushy rhetoric about a young country think Labour needs more policies. What they really mean, of course, is that they want different, exciting policies, the kind that voters do not like at all. The Blairites understand this problem — the much-derided *Road to the Manifesto* document struggles with it inconclusively for 40 glossy pages — and they will, rightly, not concede an inch.

But there is a second, and less attractive reason for such a low-key approach to policy. Some of the most influential new Labour advisers, who came of age politically in the Thatcher era, have inherited a

very bleak view of the British electorate. They regard most of the voters as mean-spirited individualists who, given the money, would pull up the drawbridge around their families and retreat into a wholly privatised world. Even Tony Blair's mild-as-milk social democracy is thought to be anathema to many of the Tory working-class voters who have become the obsession of some Blair advisers. So, say the advisers, keep quiet about it.

In any case, they add, the political system no longer allows for a rational discussion of policy. Once, we had a representative democracy in which social and political elites in collaboration with various "intermediate institutions" had a free hand to govern between elections. We now live in a raucous plebiscitary democracy in which the authority of elites has dwindled and the only intermediate institution of any authority is the media. There is a plebiscite each morning in the national papers which both second-guesses and shapes opinion.

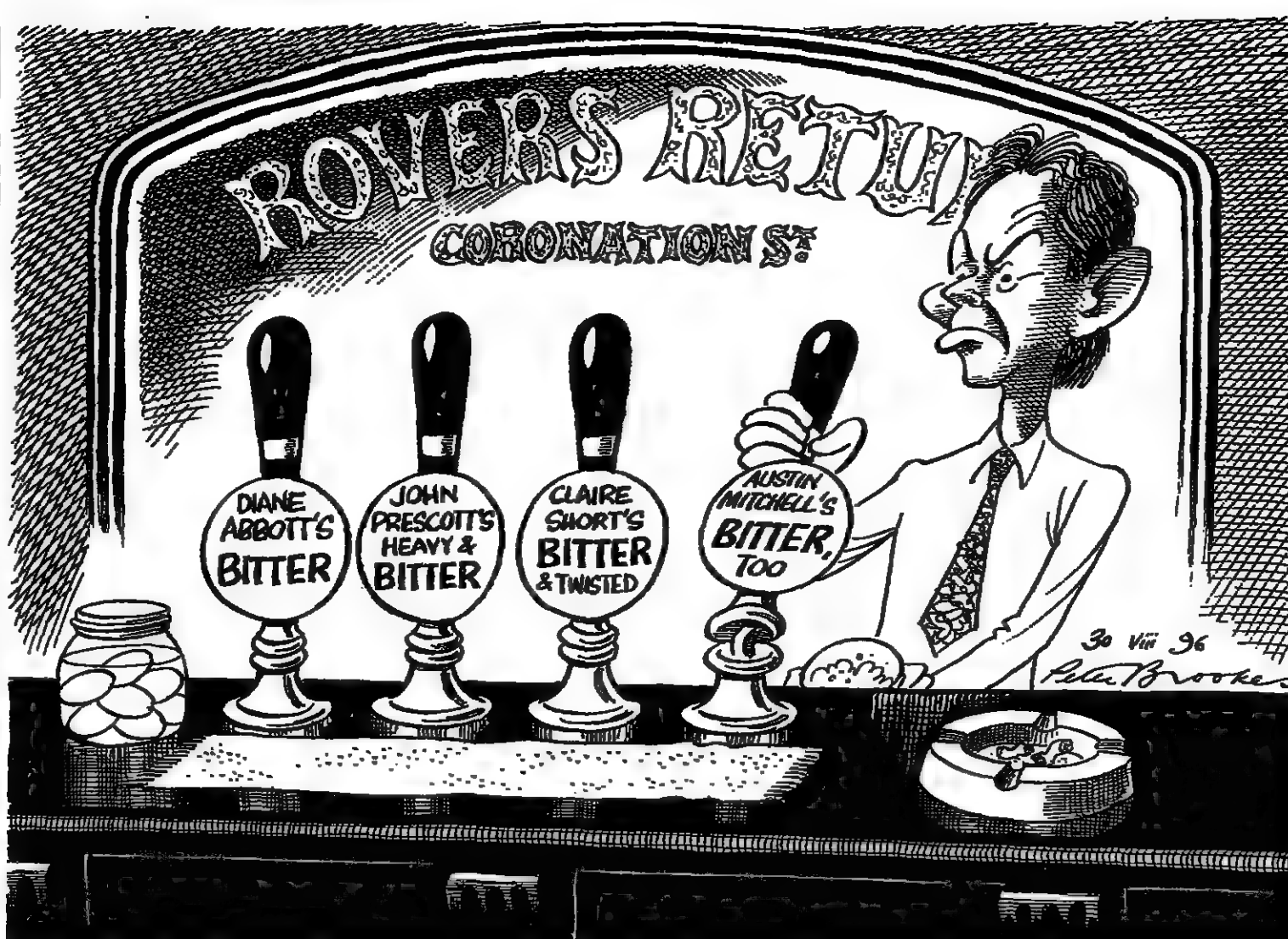
There is something in this gloomy picture. And it is easy to see how the mangling of Labour policy in past elections, or even the contempt shown towards the Tory Government in the past few months, could reinforce it. The danger is that it can easily become a self-fulfilling prophecy. If the political parties assume that rational political discussion is impossible or worthless, then it becomes so.

(And keeping quiet will not save Labour. Charles Clarke, head of Neil Kinnock's private office during the last election, recalls in the next issue of *Prospect* magazine that the Tories' notorious attack on Labour's tax policy came before not after the publication of John Smith's shadow budget.)

Not trusting your activists is understandable, not trusting the electorate to make rational choices is a mistake. People sense the distrust, and do not like it. New Labour should be more confident. It has a coherent, if unglamorous, series of policies, which promise small but worthwhile reforms, especially for the losers from the past 17 years. If the party disguises even that small commitment to change it will be elected on a false prospectus and be hamstringing in office.

Tony Blair has done enough exhorting of the past. He has proved a fine leader of his party. Now people want to know that he can lead the country. This means making explicit what is at the un-negotiable core of new Labour, it means offering a few more people, and it means telling us all unpopular truths: that if we want unpolluted cities we will have to use our cars less, or if we want decent public services the better off will have to pay a bit more tax towards them. People do not want more policy details, they want a credible leader and the expectation that his government will make some difference.

The author is editor of *Prospect*.



Burma's frail hope

When Suu Kyi, the heroine of Burmese democracy, calls for sanctions, British businessmen should follow her

A year or so ago, I didn't think I would be writing about Burma again. But events have taken a particularly ugly turn. That iron fist, Aung San Suu Kyi, has made a speech.

Anyone who is interested in Burma's tragic fate will surely recall the one genuine election Burma has had, the overwhelming victory of the democratic state at that election, the immediate annulment of that victory by the rulers of Burma — who, of course had never intended to abide by democratic rules — the brutality with which the democratic state was put down, the numbers who were, at the behest of the Burma bosses, imprisoned, together with the good few who were murdered, and Aung San Suu Kyi (Daw Suu Kyi for short), who was overheard saying that a little bit of democracy might be a good thing for Burma, and was therefore confined for two years under the strictest conditions of house arrest, including not one visit from her husband, followed by another four years of house arrest in which she was allowed a visit to her husband every six months.

Once released, Daw Suu Kyi threw herself into the nascent Burma democracy, partly because Daw Suu Kyi's name had by then become well known, and partly because her husband is a British citizen and the Burma bosses feared to have her murdered. Indeed, by then her name resounded so far round the world that the brutal rulers of Burma were afraid not only to have her murdered, but even to stifle her voice. And her voice did resound, and many who lay in prison heard that voice and were comforted. But the most striking part of her work is its almost incredible generosity — a generosity that takes the form of never demanding recompense, never speaking an unkind word even about those who wish her gone, and never allowing her followers to speak in anger.

Take this, from a speech she made to the National League for Democracy, and remember that it is only a very short time since such speeches were banned: remember as well that it was Daw Suu Kyi who greatly helped to open the sluices.

We always talk about the rule of law and try to persuade the authorities to do what is necessary to bring about the rule of law. We always speak about how important the law is in a country and in a society. We repeatedly say that the law must be equal for all.

We gather here because we all want democracy. When we say we want democracy, we are not referring simply to a goal we want to reach. It is in fact a means through which we can bring about prosperity for our country. To further the peace and prosperity of the country is the responsibility of the people in this country. The citizens of this country must first of all know their responsibilities, and then carry them out dutifully. Only such citizens can build a democratic country.

There are people both in Burma and abroad who doubt whether the Burmese are fit for democracy. But we believe the people have the ability. I want you to understand how heavy is the people's responsibility. Don't be discouraged that some people who want to take up the responsibility don't get the chance. Whenever you get the chance, take it up as a privilege. I want people to understand that the greater the people's responsibility, the greater is the test of the people's ability. Our fundamental goal was to make headway towards democracy.

I want to see each one of you as our co-workers and supporters. Never doubt that we realise we are supporting our movement. Even if we don't get to know each one of you individually, I want you to know that we feel the power of your love every day.

I have stretched my space, almost to bursting, with this marvellous and immensely moving picture — a picture painted with a child's brush. I felt myself tiptoeing out of the room, in case I might break the spell. How blunt, how vulgar, does our democracy seem when we watch the children of oppression working out what democracy means — that democracy which comes from a much-fingered ten times table. Oh, we sophisticated folk who all understand democracy years ago — I tell you that those who are only now mastering its intricacies will clutch it to their bosoms as though it were a precious jewel, as indeed it is.

But there are others, who defile the jewel with prisons and even killing.

And there are others yet, whose job is to pick over the rubbish-bins to see if there is anything useful.

I have said that the rulers of Burma are afraid to have Daw Suu Kyi murdered because she is now a world-renowned figure. Alas, Leo Nichols was not so well-known, and he died at the hands of the thugs of the Burma junta; his killers claimed that he had broken the law. And would you like to know what desperate crime Mr Nichols had committed? He had had "illegal ownership of a fax machine". (That took me back through the years to when Brezhnev ruled Russia and it was a crime to own a typewriter, in case the owner had carbon-paper as well and could distribute subversive documents at the rate of perhaps five a week.)

There are international sanctions against the Burmese leaders, of course, but these are feeble, easily broken, and even more easily evaded. For the past few years, the EU governments, including Britain, have banned non-humanitarian aid, arms sales and defence assistance to Burma. Indeed, our Foreign Office Minister said plainly in the House of Commons that the Government is "carrying out our policy in support of democratic reform and human rights in Burma".

Enter one Peter Godwin and the Asia Pacific Advisory Group, which advises Department of Trade and Industry officials in these matters. For, heedless that our country is part and parcel of these very mild sanctions against Burma, Mr Godwin and his group effectively work against the policies of Daw Suu Kyi and others who are helping to make Burma a civilised state. These opposition leaders have begged foreigners not to invest in the country while it is ruled by a military junta. Instead of heeding that advice, the Group "advises potential exporters and investors about opportunities" in Burma. Listen to Mr Godwin and every

excuse he can muster. He said he "was aware of Burma's poor human rights record" and

is conscious of that, but it applies to countries around the world where we do business — you have got to have a sense of balance. ... I don't like some of the things they've done in the past, but things have been looking brighter in the last year or two.

So far from "things looking brighter", the horrors of Burma are becoming even more dreadful. Nevertheless, Mr Godwin claims that the opposition "flourishes" to a greater extent than one realises; no doubt the "one" doing the realising was he, because the opposition is more and more brutally ground down. And he went further and worse: he actually brought the name of that tiny, brave, glorious creature Daw Suu Kyi into his shoddy words: she has, he claims, "weekend meetings and thousands turn up". So that's all right, then.

Money, money, money. I like it too, because of what I can buy with it.

But there are things that I, and any ordinary person, would not stoop to buy. Oh, don't think that Mr Godwin is anything like a crook: he is nothing of the kind. I am quite certain that he has never broken any law, and would never do so. Indeed he tells us that he is the managing director of West Merchant Bank (there's glory!), and he also chairs the Myanmar-Britain Business Association (Myanmar is the official name for Burma) which exists to promote business with Burma.

Yes, yes, the usual words are dusted off, and used once more: "Depriving Burma of trade will not help the Burmese people." But as a matter of fact, that worn-out excuse is simply false: depriving Burma of trade will bring the Burma junta closer to its fall.

PS. *Birds of a feather.* Those madmen who "rule" Nigeria and who ordered the murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa (and very many others), are in no danger of being brought to book. You see, Shell, which makes tens of millions in Nigeria, was asked to pull out of such an evil place, rather than fruitlessly appealing for the regime to exercise clemency. But it rejected the pleas, commenting on the executives: "We believe, as a multinational company, that to interfere in such processes, whether political or legal, in any country would be wrong." I repeat: *birds of a feather.*

Britpop wows the States

James Bone on Oasis as a fashion accessory

The Beatles' tumultuous arrival in America in 1964 is a fading memory for the "Baby Boom" generation who raved to the Fab Four's music in their youth. Many of the crazed teeny-boppers who tore out their hair when the mop-tops touched down in New York all those years ago are now mothers married to men who have little hair left. A generation on, though, their children are reliving the obsession with British pop, British fashion and just about anything connected to that far-distant era remembered as the "Swinging Sixties". Perhaps American teenagers have been told by their parents at the kitchen table what fun the Sixties were; perhaps they complained at having missed out; perhaps parents even made the fatal mistake of warning against the decade's potent combination of sex and drugs and rock'n'roll. Whatever the reason, American youth is in the grip of nostalgia for a time it never knew — and the Baby Boomers who lived through it seem only too happy to repeat the experience.

It is Britain's fate to be a fashion accessory as America turns "retro". Britpop bands such as Oasis, now on its seventh American tour of the past three years, deliberately evoke the heyday of John, Paul, George and Ringo. The velvet hip-huggers and satin shirts of Carnaby Street are back in style. The skinny British supermodel Kate Moss acts as the Twiggy of Generation X. Even *The Saint* is being turned into a movie. Can *The Avengers* be far behind?

John Lennon's notorious boast, made on American soil, that the Beatles were more famous than Jesus Christ has a certain resonance today. For many teenagers in America, the Beatles' appearance on the Ed Sullivan show on February 9, 1964, before a television audience of 75 million people, marks the beginning of the Common Era. When Bob Dole declares in his stump speech that he fought in the war, most American youngsters imagine he is talking about the Vietnam War. The Second World War is so remote for them that it might as well have been something that Thucydides wrote about.

Of course, America's obsession with the Sixties goes far beyond Britpop. What else but a latent nostalgia for the Age of Aquarius could have induced those ageing Baby Boomers Bill Clinton and Al Gore to take the Democratic Party back to Chicago, the site of its disastrous convention of 1968? The influence of the Sixties can be detected in everything from rising drug use among the young to the renewed excitement about the American space programme, with its stepped-up search for life on Mars. But British icons are playing a major part in the revival.

A landmark was the broadcast in America of the Beatles' *Anthology* documentary last November and the release of the new *Anthology* double CD sets. The CD's sold more than a million copies, proving that Americans will buy anything with the Beatles name, even if it has poorly recorded tracks that sound as though they have been retrieved from the studio floor. Now the American press is full of words like "Beatle" and "Beatlesque". "Beatles" itself has made the canon of American dictionaries.

It used to be said in the drug-afflicted Sixties that you could see the music and hear the fashion. America's hippest designers have found in British youth culture of the period a mix of pop and style that seems to satisfy America's ever-younger consumers. Tim Ford, the fashion wunderkind of the moment, has revived the Gucci label with designs he credits to Mick Jagger and Anita Pallenberg's 1970 film *Performance*. Anna Sui liked the Beatles' *Anthology* so much she designed lucky charm bracelets with pictures of the Fab Four. Among others who have gone "mod" with their designs is the archetypal New Yorker, Donna Karan.

Along with the fascination for British youth culture of the Sixties goes a new willingness to accept the "rude boy" behaviour of young British stars. The heroes of the new trend are not the nicely polished Brits such as Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson who are perennially popular in Hollywood. They are bad boys, who don't speak proper English. Oasis's Liam Gallagher can miss his plane to America and denounce the press with four-letter words, and it all just becomes more exciting. Damien Hirst can cut up cows for the Guggenheim Gallery, and still his politically incorrect exhibit is the hottest show in New York. The adventures of a gang of Scottish heroin users in the film *Trainspotting*, all but incomprehensible to an American audience without subtitles, is touted as Britain's answer to Quentin Tarantino's smash hit *Pulp Fiction*.

It is very satisfying to be a Brit in America these days, especially if you have a faint trace of a cockney accent. Americans assume you played a central part in the 1960s cultural upheaval. But fashions move on. Oasis will drop off the American charts. Psychedelic clothing will fade away. The latest "British invasion" will be turned back, like all the ones before it, and Americans will look for a new theme-park ride.

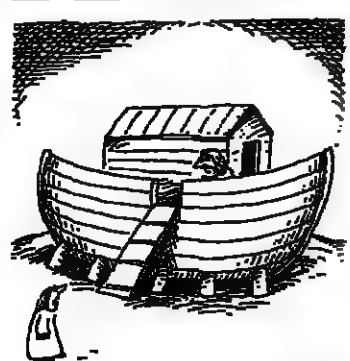
Turfed out

DIANA, Princess of Wales has been snubbed by the racing world. The ink is scarcely dry on her divorce papers and already her one recognition in the *Racing Calendar* has been scrapped. It seems a cruel blow. Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales Challenge Trophy has been the highlight of the season for amateur riders at Ludlow since 1983, but this year's race on December 9 will belong to the Prince alone. The Shropshire course is congratulating itself on its swiftness in changing the way the three-mile chase is billed in its programme book. The wording has been agreed by Buckingham Palace. "When I saw that they were getting divorced, I decided that the best thing to do was to change the name. Otherwise it would have been embarrassing," says Bob Davies, the clerk of the course.

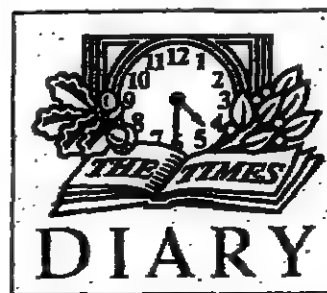
But this doesn't impress Nick Gaselee, the Grand-National-winning trainer who handled the horse on which the Prince had his first ride as an amateur jockey, also at Ludlow. "It's ridiculous. If someone dies they don't change the name of the race. There's the Empress of Austria Hunters'

Chase at Towcester, and she's been dead for a hundred years."

Others are more nonchalant about Diana's change of status. Despite the quick work of the *English National Ballet* in amending its newspaper to incorporate her new title, two of her small band of remaining charities, Centre Point and Great Ormond Street Hospital, consider her as



"The flood warning went off by accident"



royal as ever. They have no intention of removing her HRH until all their stationery has run out.

Director's cut

A QUARTER of a century after it was made, Sergio Leone's *A Fist Full of Dynamite* will be shown in a restored version at the Venice Film Festival today. Back in 1971 the director hacked off the final section in a fit of pique after a member of the audience left the auditorium during the preview. Leone made his drastic cut because he assumed the film was boring the viewers. Later he heard the man had only left to go to the lavatory.

The current edition of *Parliamentary Monitor*, which lists forthcoming political events, has the Sinn Féin conference down for

February 22-23, 1997. These dates, however, are "provisional".

Holiday job

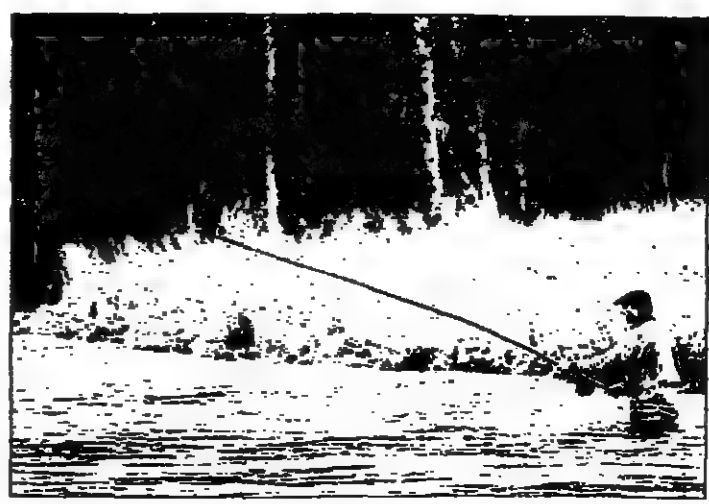
IN CONDITIONS of great secrecy at London's Vogue House, the ritzy magazine emporium *Condé Nast* is putting the final touches to a new title. It will be a British edition of *Condé Nast Traveller*, launched in America some ten years ago with Harry Evans, former Editor of *The Times*, at its helm.

Traveller is the fat cat of glossies. One of its correspondents was detailed not so long ago to visit every single beach in the Mediterranean and report back — an enviable assignment perhaps, but he doesn't like beaches.

Sub-editor

TERRY VENABLES may have left the England football team to spend more time with his lawyers, but as court cases crowd in, he is throwing himself into his media career. The slick soccer magazine *FourFourTwo* has signed him up as editor on a month's trial.

Venables has some literary form. In the 1970s he was co-author of a series of detective yarns notable for their staccato style. When *FourFourTwo* put the idea to me I



Calmer days — and this week Charles slipped away once more

was interested straightaway. It's a project I can really get my teeth into," says El Tel. This enthusiasm is hardly surprising. His other new job is to try to resurrect the fortunes of struggling Portsmouth.

Escapologist

PRINCE CHARLES may have allowed himself one little smile on D-Day. As his divorce came through, other members of his family were out and about on the

P-H-S



CHINESE MYSTERIES

It is as if a whole new civilisation had been found in Wales

Archaeology creates open spaces for the mind through which fresh ideas flow. The surprises it springs can compel us to cast aside what we had thought were the settled answers to our remote historical past. So it is with China, the world's oldest continuous civilisation and, thanks to the invention more than 3,000 years ago of a lasting system of writing, one of the most abundantly recorded. Today *The Times* publishes a special magazine to celebrate the opening on September 13 of the British Museum's enthralling new exhibition on *The Mysteries of China*, which this newspaper is proud to be sponsoring. It opens a window on an undreamt-of diversity, revealing ancient Chinese worlds whose existence was until recently unsuspected.

The astounding treasures unearthed in China's recent archaeological discoveries range from the neolithic era in around 4500 BC to the end of the Han dynasty in 220 AD. They will be displayed in Britain for the first time at this exhibition and have brought to light great unexplained civilisations, hidden for thousands of years beneath China's shifting windblown yellow earth and clays. In the spirit of the 8th-century poet Li Bai, who wrote that "time itself is a travelling guest of the centuries", ever subject to the discovering mind, these dramatic finds challenge our long-held views of China's cultural and political ancestry.

For centuries, the settled view of the origin of Chinese civilisation has traced it to the highly organised Bronze Age culture of the Shang dynasty (1500-1050 BC), which arose in the middle Yellow River Valley in northern China. From there, with many interruptions as rival warlords fought for supremacy, it was thought to have spread slowly outwards over the next thousand years until 221 BC when, in the short but

important Qin dynasty, China's First Emperor unified China as a culturally and politically homogeneous civilisation.

That civilisation is magnificently present at the British Museum, in glorious bronze vessels, elaborate jades, graceful dancers and haunting painted silks. We hope that they will delight and astonish visitors as much as did the Chinese exhibition which *The Times* helped to bring to London in 1973. But what they will also see this time is something quite new — rich evidence that in the Bronze Age, China contained not one, but many, highly organised and culturally sophisticated societies.

Towering 10ft-high over this exhibition is a compelling bronze statue, the powerfully carved image of a god, king or priest of a people who flourished 3,500 years ago in a large and wealthy walled city at Sanxingdui in Sichuan, far away to the west of the Yellow River. The pit in which he was found was discovered by chance ten years ago, along with hundreds of ritually burnt and broken offerings in bronze, gold, jade, pottery and stone, by brickyard workers digging for clay.

Nothing resembling him, or the bronze heads and bird-laden trees buried with him, has been found anywhere else. It is a culture totally distinct from, but as magnificent as, the more familiar Shang cities of the same period. No written signs exist to decipher its meaning; none can tell what the giant cupped hands of the great statue once contained. As Jessica Rawson, the distinguished scholar who led the British Museum's planning for this exhibition, writes, it is as though "a hitherto unknown world had been discovered in Wales, completely changing our ideas about the Celts and the Anglo-Saxons". Even in death, ancient civilisations bring new life to our sense of ourselves. China's hidden wealth enriches us all.

HEADS AND HEARTS

Old Labour knows Blair is right, but it still rankles

Like a school assembly erupting into rowdiness when the headmaster is called away, the Labour Party has been going through its traditional holiday season of sniping at its absent leader. Now Tony Blair is back and the arguments — partly about degrees of democracy, but much more about hurt feelings, bewilderment and an unfamiliarity with strong leadership — go on.

Austin Mitchell's article in this week's *New Statesman* encapsulates the dilemma of Old Labour. The Grimsby MP is a thoughtful man and should not be dismissed as a maverick. His analysis of how little power party members now wield in an era of what he calls "consumer politics" is accurate. But, as he acknowledges, "this is the way it's got to be, and the only way we'll win." He further admits: "Grown-up parties are about power."

Just like the Democrats in America, the Labour Party now has a leader who is prepared to cast aside old shibboleths if he senses that the country has turned against them. This may be a winning formula but it is understandably an uncomfortable one for those activists and MPs whose hearts remain set on the old ideas. As Mr Mitchell confesses, Mr Blair's "instincts aren't ours. Yet he's in better tune with the new Britain than we are, and he's a winner."

Mr Mitchell is not alone in feeling, in his inimitable words, like a "squashed hedgehog on the road to the manifesto". The trouble is that, when party members did have power, in the past, they acted more like a roadblock to sensible reforms. So-called democracy at party conferences was actually a combination of rigged union block votes and a tiny group of fanatics.

A SCURVY TRADE

Jardine Fleming has hurt Hong Kong as well as its investors

Jardine Fleming Asset Management, the oldest established investment bank in Hong Kong, has been deservedly humiliated. The Investment Management Regulatory Office, in levying a fine of £400,000 and additional fines of £100,000 for three London-based companies in the Robert Fleming group, has done more than express its anger at questionable trading practices, tolerated far too long: the judgment destroys the reputation of a pillar of the Far Eastern financial world.

Jardine Fleming stands accused not of an outright crime but of something that in the City is almost worse: negligence, cronyism and complacency towards the investors it claims to serve. The company is the offshoot of two mighty financial houses, Jardine Matheson and Robert Fleming, which have long prided themselves on their acumen and virtues. They can bear the cost of the fine better than the stain on their good name.

Jardine Fleming Asset Management has voluntarily agreed to pay back some £12.2 million to compensate customers affected by the abuses between 1993 and 1995. The parent company has issued a sweeping apology. Its defenders point out that it was the company itself which first drew attention to suspicions that Colin Armstrong, its former senior fund manager, was engaging in the late allocation of deals after the price of the late instrument had changed. He benefited his own and favoured clients' accounts if the price rose and offloaded the instrument on other accounts if it fell. Since March the company has forbidden its traders to hold personal accounts. And it insists it has co-

operated throughout with the investigation.

All this will cut little ice in the City or in Hong Kong. In London the question is why Jardine Fleming Investment was so dilatory in reporting its own suspicions, why it failed to watch its own procedures and why its directors failed to uphold the trust placed in them. To have its staff publicly named is bad enough; to have them banned from ever operating again could be the kind of blow which could eventually lead to the company's demise or takeover.

In Hong Kong, the judgment will be no less harsh. Many have not forgiven Jardine for its decision to move its corporate headquarters out of the colony. There will be wry smiles that the company which moved out because it thought regulation in Hong Kong too stringent has now fallen foul of regulators in Britain. But the greatest contempt will come from those who are fighting to ensure that Hong Kong remains a world financial centre after the Chinese take over.

There will be nothing then to protect the Hong Kong stock market except its reputation. China will come under pressure to allow stringent, independent regulation to continue, unhindered by political pressure or cronyism. But what moral leverage will Britain, or those in Hong Kong attempting to uphold the British-inspired framework, have if Britain's leading companies are seen to have acted corruptly? Jardine Fleming has lost more than its investors' money; it has squandered Britain's good name on the other side of the world.

Policing the law on child abuse

From Mr Jack Arthey

Sir, The Home Office's proposed legislation on child sex abuse (report, August 27) will send an important deterrent message to paedophiles and sex tourists. But the new law will prove difficult to enforce without increasing specialist police resources. Australia introduced a similar law two years ago. It brought its first successful prosecution — for abuse of children in the Philippines by an Australian citizen — this year. Another prosecution began on Tuesday (report, August 28).

Australian police officers play a pivotal role in gathering evidence for such cases and in liaising with local police. Australia has four such officers in Manila and seven in Bangkok.

Britain, by contrast, has no permanent police presence in Manila. When the Metropolitan Police wanted to track down Brett Tyler, one of the two paedophiles now serving life for the abduction and murder of the British boy Daniel Handley (report, May 17), they had to rely on two Australian police agents to track him to his Philippines hideaway.

British men top the league of foreigners arrested for child-sex crimes in the Philippines, accounting for one in five (seven out of 36) arrests between April 1995 and April 1996.

Establishing a specialised police presence in this notorious haunt of British sex tourists would help to build on the valuable child-protection training provided by the Metropolitan Police to Philippine officers last month.

Yours faithfully,
JACK ARTHEY (Head,
South-East Asia Programme),
Christian Aid, 35 Lower Marsh, SE1.
August 28.

From the Executive Director of
World Vision UK

Sir, The World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, meeting in Stockholm this week, has drawn attention to a problem that appalls all civilised people. The UK delegation's statement at the congress condemned such exploitation in the strongest terms and called for the abusers in overseas tourism to be "punished and punished severely". New British extra-territorial legislation is being introduced in the next parliamentary session.

One important aspect, however, seems to me to have been overlooked. Child prostitution in the developing world is directly related to poverty, which removes choices and forces families into desperation. Yet budgets for overseas development assistance are constantly being eroded. This is hard to reconcile with our lofty statements about child protection overseas. Therefore I call on all parties to increase their financial commitment to overseas development as they prepare for the general election.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES CLAYTON,
Executive Director, World Vision UK,
599 Avebury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
August 28.

Clovis and France

From Dr W. D. Hallis

Sir, In his article on Clovis (August 24) Ben Macintyre speaks of "the sometimes active collaboration of the Catholic Church during the Nazi occupation (of France)".

Only a handful of the higher clergy at the liberation were relieved of their office for collaborating, in words rather than deeds, with the Germans. It is true that the Church did officially support the Vichy regime and its institutions, which were by no means entirely collaborationist, to the very end, largely out of loyalty to Marshal Pétain.

Against this must be set the fact that Catholics shared with the communists the honour of being the prime leaders in the Resistance.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. HALLIS
(Author, *Politics, Society and Christianity in Vichy France*, Berg, Oxford, 1995),
74 Hurst Rise Road,
Moor Rise Heights, Oxford.
August 27.

From Mr Christopher Donaldson

Sir, Ben Macintyre's excellent article on Clovis did not refer to Clovis's charming wife Queen Clotilde. Without her intelligent, Nicene-based Christianity Clovis would have acted like a blockhead.

It was she who rebuked him for his love of the pagan gods and convinced him to become a Christian.

Clotilde taught the Merovingians to put themselves under the patronage of Martin of Tours. It was her great-granddaughter Bertha, with her Anglo-Saxon husband Ethelbert, who was instrumental in making the Angles Christian.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER DONALDSON
(Author, *Martin of Tours*,
Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1980),
13 Beadon Lane,
Merriott, nr Crewkerne, Somerset.
August 26.

Letters should carry a daytime
telephone number. They may
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Identity cards, privacy and the infringement of liberty

From Mr P. Tompkins

Sir, The fuss over national or European flags and symbols on the proposed identity card (letters, August 20 and 23) has provided the Home Office with a convenient smokescreen to obscure a much more serious issue — the security of issuing procedures and the seeming absence of effective anti-forgery safeguards.

There is no doubt that the identity card will be attractive to the organisers of illegal immigration and to other criminal elements. Its predecessor, the British Visitors Passport, was widely abused, both by the issue of documents to bogus applicants and through forgery and photograph substitution.

The misuse of national identity cards from elsewhere in the European Union has for many years been one of the main areas of attempted illegal entry to this country, a problem exacerbated where the would-be entrant has a common language with the issuing authority, eg. North Africans travelling on French identity cards.

In many cases there are so many "lost" or stolen cards in circulation that forgery is unnecessary. Unless issuing procedures are secure, the UK identity cards will be compromised from the outset. It is worrying that the Data Protection Registrar appears to have misgivings about the reliability of the database which will direct the issue of the cards (leading article, August 19).

For the Government to defend the absence of adequate anti-forgery safeguards on the grounds that developments in technology "need to be studied", defies comprehension. Holograms and similar devices are now widely in use in credit cards and travel documents. In addition some countries are already operating systems involving the identification of unique physical characteristics, fingerprints, handprints and others. Whilst the case against this type of security feature on a compulsory card has been well aired, there is none whatsoever as far as a voluntary one is concerned.

The Home Secretary might then

usefully go on to provide accelerated clearance through port controls for holders of identity cards, and negotiate reciprocal arrangements with other countries providing the same levels of security, thus offering an additional incentive towards applying for a card. Instead we appear once again to be about to sacrifice security in order to keep down the cost.

Yours truly,
PETER TOMPKINS
(Head of UK Immigration Service,
1981-91),
64 Dean Court Road,
Rottingdean, East Sussex.
August 27.

From Mr Mycal Miller

Sir, Mr Gerard Finan (letter, August 23) writes from his home in Germany: "... surely only people with something criminal to hide need fear the 'police'. The sad fact is that before and during the last war many innocent people in that country had much to fear from the police and would not doubt say so, had they survived."

Yours faithfully,
MYCAL MILLER,
20 Hamlet Square, NW2.
August 23.

From Mr John Power

Sir, I can but express my astonishment at Mr Gerard Finan's letter. I lived in Bonn, as he does, for over six years before moving to Brussels a year ago. I have been attempting without success to "de-register" from the City of Bonn's archives for a number of months.

The problem is that the authorities apparently require to know my new address abroad. I have nothing to hide. I am not a criminal and I do not particularly care who knows my address. But I find it distasteful, displeasing and downright inquisitive of the German authorities to want to know where I live now that it is outside their jurisdiction.

I have always prided myself in coming from a country where identity cards are naturally seen as anathema — and enjoyed every minute of

explaining to German colleagues and acquaintances why this is so. Germany is the most regulated "nannyist" country one could imagine, with rules about when you may use your washing machine and when dogs are allowed to bark.

If the introduction of identity cards is about to take us down that road, then God help Britain.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POWER,
Quai à la Houille 10 b 57,
B-1000 Brussels.

From Mr Tim Odene

Sir, I lived and worked in Venezuela for five years in the 1980s where it was compulsory to carry an identity card (or, if a visitor, a passport). It was a criminal offence not to do so. Furthermore, without a card one was virtually a non-person: for instance you couldn't open a bank account, pay by credit card, obtain a driving licence, enter into any sort of legal agreement.

Without doubt an identity card was administratively extremely effective, but even after ten years of being back here the relief of being able to carry no documentation, and living without the fear of being stopped by the police to produce identification, is still immense and something we should fight to maintain.

Yours etc,
TIM ODENE,
Garden House,
Kilmington, nr Andover, Hampshire.
August 29.

From Mr David Gosling

Sir, Lost ID cards, complete with photograph, date of birth, and home address, will be of use to stalkers, rapists, paedophiles and blackmailers. The young, elderly and disabled will be at risk. Have the European governments given this enough thought and consideration?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GOSLING,
51 Bolters Road South,
Horley, Surrey.
August 27.

Rare butterflies

From Vice-Admiral
Sir David Clutterbuck

Sir, Your report (early editions, August 22) that the black-veined white butterfly has not been seen in Britain since the 1920s may be incorrect.

While berthed in the East Cotes marina in the late 1970s I came across a large hatch of this butterfly in an area of scrubby wasteland between the marina and the old gas works. There were dozens, perhaps hundreds of them. I recognised this striking butterfly at once because my father, Charles Granville Clutterbuck, FRES, had a number of them in his collection, taken by himself in the New Forest. I believe, around the turn of this century.

F. W. Frohawk, in *The Complete Book of British Butterflies* (1934), says that in some parts of this Continent this butterfly may "from some mysterious cause, suddenly disappear for a number of years, and again make its appearance and become as plentiful as formerly". So it may prove not to be extinct in Britain after all. I hope so.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CLUTTERBUCK,
Burrard Cottage, Walhampton,
Lymington, Hampshire.
August 23.

'Out of This World'

From Mr Andrew F. Wilson

Sir, I don't think that anyone will find that *Out of This World* gives scientific credibility to the paranormal (letter, August 28). But why should a television presenter such as Carol Vorderman, the epitome of cool logic, want to abandon her reputation by associating with it?

Yours faithfully,
A. F. WILSON,
15 Richland Avenue,
Coudersport, Surrey.
August 28.

All in knots

From Mr B. Gadd

Sir, The description in your caption today of "the *Minato Maru* tied up in Castletown" reminds me of my commanding officer, many years ago, when I was a sub lieutenant, who declared: "Shoe laces are tied up, ships are secured alongside."

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN GADD,
The Thistles, 16 The Shrublands,
Cooden, East Sussex.
August 24.

Still on course

From Dr Wendy Greengross

Sir, There is sometimes a long gap between action and reaction (William Rees-Mogg's article on smoking, August 26). I gave up smoking 45 years ago. My recent computerised medical check-up responded with, "Well done! Keep it up!"

Yours faithfully,
WENDY GREENGROSS,
2 Willfield Way, NW11.
August 27.

Lewis hits back

From Mr Chris Lewis

Sir, The last week has proved yet again to be a trying time in my cricketing career (report, August 26). This year has been, without doubt, my finest and happiest in cricket. I am thrilled to be at Surrey; they have my full support and I feel I have theirs. That in conjunction with my return to the England team and success against India filled me with optimism and enthusiasm for the game after a hip injury had kept me out of cricket for most of last year.

By being late for the warm-up before Sunday's play in the final Test against Pakistan, I let myself down, and of course my team-mates. This event was always going to result in some disciplinary action, and quite rightly so; but this is a matter for the cricket committee. However, the rumblings in the press and elsewhere that this has come at the end of a long list of other similar incidents are not based on fact. I was fined £80 at the

beginning of this season for being late for the first practice day of the one-day series against India, but this was repaid in the champagne I won as man of the match and man of the series. This was the only other disciplinary matter ever to be raised with me in over 75 Test and one-day appearances for England.

It is suggested that this week's events may herald the end of my international career. Thank goodness such rumours are the regular lot of nearly every player in nearly every sport.

Today is the start of one of Surrey's most important games this season. We, as a team, are competing to win the championship. I intend to maintain my good form of this season at county level and fully intend to justify my swift recall to the England fold for the winter tour.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS LEWIS,
Surrey County Cricket Club,
The Oval, SE11.
August 29.

School league tables

From the Head Master
of Westminster School

Sir, *The Times*, in common with many other newspapers, trumpets forth all kinds of statistics and deductions drawn from statistics about the performance of schools at A level.

In the case of this particular school, since those figures were published on August 23 (and Westminster was placed second in *The Times*'s analysis), one boy has been awarded an A grade in biology where previously no grade was awarded at all because a module was lost by the examining board; another pupil has had a grade raised from E to B, another from C to B, because of what must be considered to be clerical errors.

It is immaterial that these changes might have affected Westminster's position in the table. More importantly, three candidates (and there must be more, not only in this school but in many others) have had their university places put at risk because

admissions tutors will have based their judgments upon incorrect information; and the figures and deductions offered by *The Times* are inevitably wrong.

The latter problem can be dealt with quite simply: must there be such a rush for publishing these league tables and commenting upon them? Since so many errors appear every year, school by school, can we not wait until greater accuracy is guaranteed? Then unleash your Education Correspondent, with less risk of potential error, let us say on a date early in September, when everything other than re-marking has been settled.

I also hope that universities can be prepared to be more charitable than they sometimes are with those candidates whose grades are changed as a result of immediate query or protest when results are received.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. SUMMERSCALE,
Head Master, Westminster School,
17 Dean's Yard, SW1.
August 28.

Theatre enterprise

From Mr George Murrell

Sir, Dr Alan B. Shrank (letter, August 19) praised the efforts of Derek Wharton and his Shrewsbury Concerts Coach.

Surely this activity should be encouraged and expanded. If Wharton can sell 10,000 tickets per annum by travelling to the venues of excellence within easy reach of Shrewsbury, why cannot this initiative be funded in, say, 30 other towns around the country? These would then have similar access to good entertainment and boost the box office in a great many other venues.

The Arts Council could do a lot worse than subsidise such an initiative.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MURRELL
(Artistic Director),
St Georges Theatre,
Tufnell Park Road, N7.
August 27.

Booing the Bard

From Ms Celia Parker

Sir, If Mr John Harris finds the theatre audiences in London a little too genteel (letter, August 26), he should visit South Yorkshire.

Here in the provinces Shakespeare's plays seem to be put on for the sole benefit of local GCSE and A-level students, who are experts in the "rowdy behaviour" Mr Harris missed at the Globe.

Members of the audience over 18 have to catch what they can of the play over a constant barrage of shuffling, giggling, sweet-paper rustling and loud discussions of the more intimate details of teenage sexual life.

The Globe audience sounds blissful.
Yours sincerely,
CELIA PARKER,
105 Abbeydale Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
August 28.



OBITUARIES

THE VERY REV ERIC HEATON

The Very Rev Eric Heaton, former Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, died on August 24 aged 75. He was born on October 15, 1920.

Eric Heaton's career was bound up in a remarkable way with two of the great institutions of our national life — the cathedral and the university. He occupied positions of responsibility not only in three ancient cathedrals (Salisbury, Durham and Christ Church), but in three famous universities (Cambridge, Oxford and Durham). With his appointment in 1979 as Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, he found an office to which he was ideally suited — one which combined the roles of dean of a cathedral and head of a college.

Eric William Heaton grew up in Yorkshire. He attended Emmsay's School, Skipton, from which he gained an exhibition to Christ's College, Cambridge. After reading English for Part I of the Tripos he moved over to Theology, in which he obtained a First.

It was a happy time for an aspiring theologian to be at Christ's, for Charles Raven was Master and Ian Ramsey was chaplain. Moreover, C. H. Dodd was at the height of his powers in lecturing on the New Testament. When Eric married Dodd's daughter, Rachel, he was brought into an enduring relationship with the leading biblical scholar in Britain.

After a brief period of service in a Durham parish, he was appointed Chaplain and subsequently Dean of Gonville and Caius College and proceeded to make the Old Testament his special subject of teaching and research. In 1953 he was persuaded to leave Cambridge for some years to become Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral and to guide further education in the diocese, but he returned to university work in 1960, becoming Fellow and Chaplain of St John's College, Oxford.

The next 14 years were altogether fruitful. His buoyant personality enabled him to establish easy and friendly relationships with dons and undergraduates, and his teaching of the Old Testament was fresh and stimulating. He wrote books which communicated the results of historical and archaeological studies in a lively way and, in 1974, produced his most original book, *Solomon's New Men*, in which he explored the role of the Schools in the training of a new breed of bureaucrats.

In 1974 he accepted the offer of the Deanery of Durham. His primary responsibility was within the life of the Church of the Northern Province, but because of the setting of the cathedral at the heart of the university his experience at Cambridge and Oxford proved of special value in his new office.

In the short period of five years, he was instrumental in strengthening the links between the cathedral and the clergy of the diocese, while the Friends' organisation expanded in size and influence. He wanted to open the cathedral to its flocks of visitors and saw ways of adapting parts of the building to their needs. He liked Durham, and his decisive leadership, combined with a friendly approach and a ready wit, was warmly appreciated.

In 1979 he became Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. He brought to the administration of his college his customary decisiveness and good sense. The reforms he instigated were characterised as much by their obvious desirability as by their novelty. It was, for instance, largely thanks to him that an academic committee was added to the many other governing body committees which already existed, while some of the existing ones were abolished or rationalised. And it was due to him that the Censor Theologiae, the dean's deputy in college matters, was a layman rather than a canon. But perhaps his most important contribution to the college was the way in which he helped a large governing body to reach sensible decisions amicably.

He was anxious that the college should acquit itself honourably in the academic field. But he was particularly clear that it was the job of a college to send into the world men and women who possessed clarity of mind, practical wisdom and an ability to recognise rubbish when they came across it.

Not least, he did much to make the college a cheerful place, thanks to his affability, his hospitality and his good humour. He and his wife made the Deanery a place of welcome for everyone from the most distinguished visitor to the lowliest undergraduate. Characteristically, one of his last actions as dean was to bring about the creation of the Christ Church Association, to foster a feeling of friendly community among former members of college as well as present ones.

He brought the same qualities to the management of the cathedral. He did much to increase the efficiency of its day-to-day running by the appointment of a registrar; and he was able to reconcile the sometimes competing interests of the choral foundation and congregational worship. But above all he had a clear vision of the role of the Church. And this went hand in hand with his own academic interests.

Before he was appointed to Christ Church he had been due to give the Bampton Lectures in 1980 in which he was planning to discuss the School tradition in Israel. These plans had to be temporarily shelved but, fortunately, they were not forgotten. Heaton was eventually invited to bring them to fruition in the Bampton Lectures for 1994 and they were published as *The School Tradition of the Old Testament*.

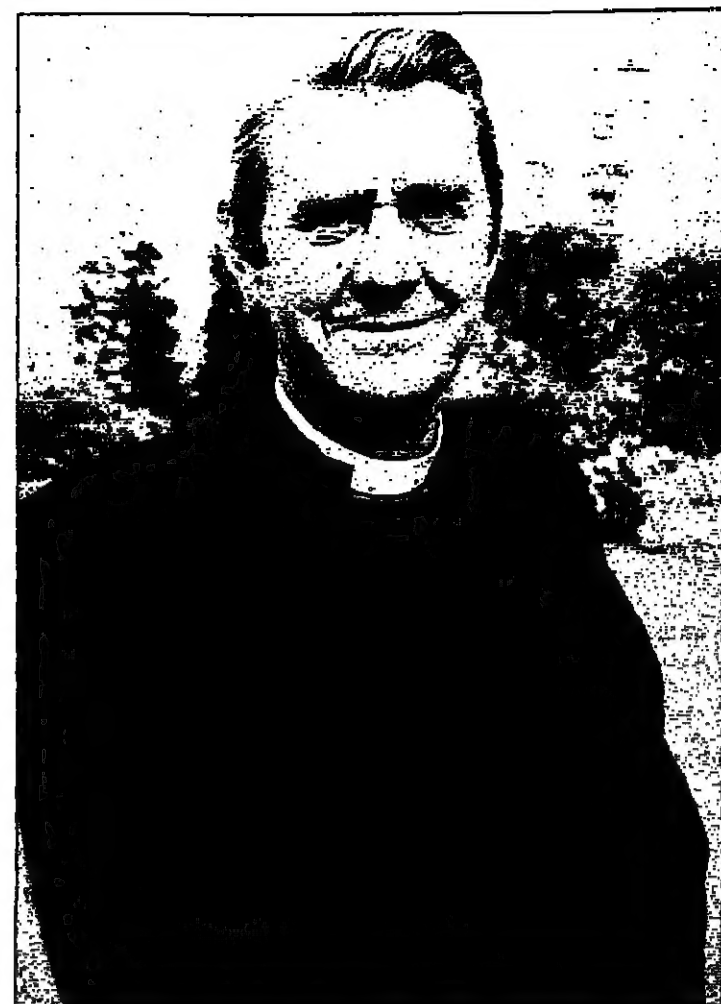
He admired the Schoolmen, not

only for their urbanity and sophistication, but for their vision of the relationship between our knowledge of goodness and our knowledge of God. Our knowledge of goodness came first. It was through our natural ability to discern what is good that we came to our knowledge of God. He saw, then, the primary role of the Church as being to teach, or rather to assist, in the teaching of morality: not some esoteric morality which was peculiar to the Church, but that morality which we all have the ability to appreciate.

He was made an Honorary Fellow of St John's College, Oxford, in 1979, and of Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1983. On his retirement as Dean in 1991 he was made an Honorary Student of Christ Church, and was awarded the DD (Lambeth). In the same year he was also (to his great pleasure) made Cavaliere Ufficiale, Order of Merit (Italy).

His publications include *His Servant the Prophet* (1949), revised and enlarged as *The Old Testament Prophets* (1958); *The Book of Daniel* (1956); *Everyday Life in Old Testament Times* (1956); *Commentary on the Sunday Lessons* (1959); *The Hebrew Kingdoms* (1968); *Solomon's New Men* (1974); and *The School Tradition of the Old Testament* (1994).

Eric Heaton is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1951, and by their two sons and two daughters.



ABRAM GAMES

Abram Games, OBE, graphic designer, died on August 27 aged 82. He was born on July 29, 1914.

ADVERTISING hoardings have always been a form of "poor man's art gallery", providing a forum for the work of some of Britain's most interesting contemporary designers. This was never more the case than in the years before the advent of television when advertisers devoted the major part of their budgets to poster campaigns. Among the designers of these posters, Abram Games was perhaps the most versatile and prolific.

Deriving his formative inspiration from the Surrealist movement, he applied the ideas of painters such as Dalí or Max Ernst to the purposes of the market, much as the art historian E. H. Gombrich noted, "as the art of previous centuries had been harnessed to the service of power or of religion". Games played with the visual puns, the ambiguities and illogicalities of Surrealism to present starkly powerful messages to the populace. His work also incorporated the influences of other major artistic movements such as Futurism, Constructivism, Abstraction and Pop, as well as paying homage to such great posterists as Jean Carlu, Paul Colin and Edward McKnight Kauffer.

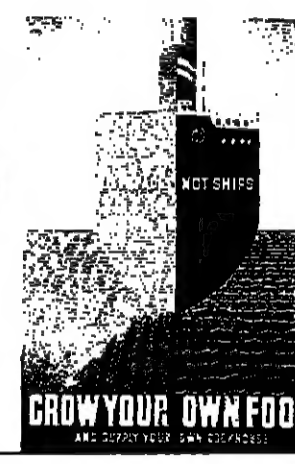
An austere, uncompromising man, he worked in a pitiless visual shorthand which he summed up in his phrase "maximum meaning, minimum means". His work first attained popular recognition during the wartime years in which, as Official War Poster Designer he produced almost



one hundred images, one of the most effective and memorable being his design for "Your Talk May Kill Your Comrades". Games's picture showed a line spiralling from a garrulous soldier's mouth to stab three of his colleagues in the back.

However, apart from the war years, Games never appeared comfortable with institutional work and for most of his career, which spanned more than 60 years, he based himself in a studio in his family home in Golders Green, London. From there he produced numerous posters as well as stamps, book jackets and symbols, including those for the Festival of Britain.

Abram Games was born in Whitechapel in the East End of London. His father, Joseph Games, (the family made a neat transposition of the last two letters of its name in 1926), was a photographer from Latvia who had emigrated to London in 1904. His mother Sarah, née Rosenberg, was seamstress from the borders of Russia and Poland.



He excelled at art even at primary school and, after attending the Grocers' Company School in Hackney Downs, he enrolled at St Martin's School of Art in 1930. But he was disappointed with the teaching there and, after just two terms, he decided to abandon full-time study and take evening classes instead. He worked for a while as an assistant to his father before going on, from 1932 to 1936, to work at the commercial art

studio, Askew-Young, in Carmelite Street, while continuing his life classes in the evening and studying anatomy during the lunch hour at the Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1936 his talent as a designer was proven when he won first prize in a poster competition to advertise London County Council evening classes. He transformed the initials LCC into a hand supporting a man's head. However, despite this success,

as the perils of unexploded ammunition or the dangers of careless talk.

Some of his posters met a certain resistance. The Army and Government, for instance, objected to his recruiting poster for the Auxiliary Territorial Service which was, they complained, over-glamorous. It served its purpose, however, since girls favoured the more attractive uniform of the WRNS with its black stockings. But other works such as his "Grow Your Own Food" poster — showing a dining table set above an allotment in which the garden spade and fork supporting it metamorphose into cutlery above the table — were to be remembered as typifying the era.

After the war, Games worked on designs to raise public awareness of issues such as Jewish Relief, displaced persons, and the spread of VD. But he soon returned to his freelance career, and found himself in demand by such companies as BOAC, Murphy Television, the *Financial Times* and *The Times*. For the last he did the famous "Top People Read The Times" series. But perhaps his most widely-known image was his symbol for the Festival of Britain in 1951 — the semi-circle of bunting added as an afterthought, when the official view of the Festival changed from educative to festive.

In addition to graphic design, Games had a passion for inventing and over the years owned a large number of product patents. In the 1950s he devised a copying process which attracted interest from electronic companies. He was also the inventor of what is now a much sought-after design classic: the Cona coffee portable model. The original design of this, first manufactured in 1959, is still in production — now even in a gold-plated version.

Though television commanded a large proportion of advertisers' budgets after the 1950s, Games's ingenuity remained in demand for symbols and logos. In 1957 he was appointed OBE for his graphic design work, and this was followed by his appointment in 1959 as Royal Designer for Industry. He also wrote a book, *Over My Shoulder*, in 1960 in which his meticulous working methods were outlined.

Games married in 1945 Marianne Salfield, who died in 1988. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

SYLVIA FISHER

Sylvia Fisher, Australian soprano, died on August 25 aged 86. She was born on April 18, 1910.

THE Australian soprano Sylvia Fisher was one of the cornerstones of the rebuilding of the Royal Opera House company after the Second World War, specialising in the heavyweight roles of the German repertoire at a time when Isolde and Brünnhilde were in extremely short supply. It was Covent Garden which made Sylvia Fisher and, in turn, it was her presence and loyalty that ensured that the house was in a position to mount several of the operas seen there in the 1950s.

She was a late starter. When she arrived in London in 1947 she was already in her late thirties, but fairly inexperienced in the theatre. She had only performed one opera role on stage, in an obscure Lully work, before she came to Britain; most of her appearances had been in concerts and lieder recitals.

However, this lack of pressure on the voice at the start of the career was almost certainly one of the reasons why she was singing until well into her sixties, notably as Miss Wingrave in Benjamin Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, composed originally for television and later staged at Covent Garden.

She was born in Melbourne and studied at the Conservatory there with Adolf Spivakovsky. Her Covent Garden debut was in 1948, as Leonore in a new production of *Fidelio*. There was a certain amount of criticism beforehand that an "unknown" should be given so demanding a role. But Fisher's performance, alongside that of Schwarzkopf as Marzelline, was reckoned one of the better things of a moderate first night. Further evidence of the quality of the Fisher soprano — carefully coloured and inflected: the lieder training saw to that — came later in the season in another new production, when she sang the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Covent Garden had taken a risk with her and it paid off. She became part of a generation of singers — Geraint Evans (who made his debut the same year as Fisher) and Adele Leigh were others — who soon formed the backbone of the company. For the next ten years Sylvia Fisher was the leading dramatic soprano of the Royal Opera. She

made forays into the Italian repertoire (*Suor Angelica*) and was a notable Turandot in the Eva Turner manner. But it is for German opera and Britten that she will be chiefly remembered.

Her Marschallin in Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* was steadily refined by the conductor Erich Kleiber until it became an outstanding interpretation. In 1953 came her Isolde in a *Tristan* conducted by Barbirolli, where she easily outshone a generally modest cast. Not all the 30 or so leading roles she sang during this period were as successful: the girlish Agathe in *Freischütz*, for instance, was not for her. But she quickly

knew which parts to reject from her repertoire. During the Fifties she made a number of appearances in Italian houses, mainly in Wagnerian roles, but her career was essentially a British one.

Sylvia Fisher's stern, almost matriarchal features made her a natural for some of Britten's formidable operatic ladies. Lady Billows (*Albert Herring*) was one, and she sang the title role of *Gloriana* in a concert performance to mark the composer's fiftieth birthday. Both contributed to a long association with the English Opera Group.

Towards the end of her career, with the figure even more ample and some lines on her determined face, Sylvia Fisher specialised in fierce females, such as the Kostelníka in Janáček's *Jenufa*, which she sang in Chicago, and of course Miss Wingrave for Britten.

In 1954 she married Ubaldo Gardini, who was to be Italian language coach at the Royal Opera from 1968 to 1980, but the marriage was later dissolved.

Every Salvationist, man or woman, wore a cape or overcoat. The lines of cloaked figures with the black domed headpiece of the women suggested the idea of a pious pilgrimage. The drooping banners, the flagstuffs with their bunches of white ribbons, the cross entwined with the letter "S" which adorned some of these flagstuffs, would have been quite in keeping with a religious procession of 500 years ago. But the monks and nuns would have chanted as they walked; the Salvationists for the most part were silent, and the only music heard was the persistent blare of the bands, playing the "Dead March".

There were many in the ranks who wore ordinary clothes and felt hats or cloth caps. There were not a few members also of the Navy and Army — sailors in blue and soldiers in scarlet or khaki. These, with some of the foreign officers and the Salvationist bandsmen, whose costume was sometimes strikingly bizarre, furnished almost the only patches of colour in the procession.

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NEWS

Court backs Howard on jail release

Prison governors were warned to prepare for protest demonstrations by angry inmates after two High Court judges ruled that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was correct in his decision to stop the early release of prisoners last week. The judges threw out an application by a convicted burglar for a judicial review. One of the judges described instructions to take into account time spent on remand in custody for every consecutive sentence as an "absurdity". Page 1

Clinton aide forced out by sex scandal

President Clinton's seemingly effortless drive towards re-election was thrown off course when Dick Morris, his top strategist, was forced to resign. A supermarket tabloid will reveal how Mr Morris, a 48-year-old married man, had had an affair with a \$200-an-hour Washington prostitute. Pages 1, 12

Local hero

Tony Blair became the first Opposition leader to breach the portals of the Rovers Return when he was accorded the honour of a visit to Coronation Street. Page 1

Eastern storms

Gale force winds, mountainous seas and torrential rain brought chaos to eastern England. Four lifeboat crews and an RAF rescue helicopter team braved ferocious conditions. Page 1

New BSE row

Ministers are preparing for a new conflict with Europe over "mad cow" disease in the wake of fresh evidence suggesting that it will die out naturally. Pages 1, 15

Blair's warning

Tony Blair delivered a blunt warning to the critics in his own party to stop living in the past and accept the need for policy reform and change. Page 2

Carlings divorce

The marriage of Will and Julia Carling has ended in divorce. It emerged 24 hours after Diana, Princess of Wales became a single woman. Mrs Carling blamed her husband's friendship with the Princess. Page 3

Modest hero

The pilot of the hijacked Sudan Airways jet, preparing to fly the freed Sudanese hostages home after their ordeal, insisted that he was no hero. Page 5

Oasis stage their big reunion

Most rock bands go through a break-up and years of waiting before they hold a big reunion. Oasis have cut the procedure down to four days. Liam Gallagher, the lead singer who abandoned his colleagues 15 minutes before they left for a American tour, flew to join them. He said that they remained on cordial terms and caught up with them in Detroit. Page 8

Young model danger

Advertisers and film-makers who use childlike girls in alluring roles were accused by Roger Moore of blurring the distinction between "sexually ready" and "too young". Page 7

Unionist anger

Fringe loyalist parties should be expelled from multi-party talks at Stormont after paramilitaries threatened to kill two loyalists, said a leading Unionist. Page 8

Clinton triumph

Bill Clinton, the first Democratic President in 60 years to be re-elected unopposed, is launching the final campaign of his political career with an acceptance speech unveiling his vision for steering America into the 21st century. Page 12

Jerusalem alert

Israeli troops and police reinforcements have been brought into Jerusalem after Palestinians declared they would break the law with a mass pilgrimage. Page 13

Election criticised

In barely veiled criticism of India's framework for next month's elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Malcolm Rifkind denounced the intimidation of voters. Page 14

Jesus was only child

The Pope returned to the public stage with an emphatic reassertion that Jesus had no brothers or sisters. Page 15



A car park kiosk at Blakeney on the north Norfolk coast is isolated by the tide after a night of severe storms. Page 1

BUSINESS

Strike warnings: Britain's trade unions forecast an increase in industrial action over the next six months because of growing frustration at work. Page 25

Jardine fines Jardine Fleming, the Hong Kong bank half owned by the British Robert Fleming merchant bank, has been fined £400,000 and paid £12 million in compensation. Page 25

Investments: Save & Prosper has been fined £115,000 for breaking rules on personal equity plans invested directly in shares. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 33.7 points to 3885.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 85.0 after a fall from \$1.5595 to \$1.5572 but a rise from DM2.3015 to DM2.3051. Page 28

SPORT

Rugby union: The leading 24 clubs in England are set to break away from their governing body, the Rugby Football Union, which now finds itself isolated at home and in Europe. Page 48

Cricket: England defeated Pakistan by five wickets in the first one-day international. Michael Atherton was man of the match for his innings of 65. Page 48

Football: Manchester City are still looking for a new manager after George Graham confirmed that he did not want the post. Page 42

Golf: The director of the One 2 One British Masters at Collingtree Park apologised to players and spectators over the state of the greens, which are grainy and inconsistent in speed. Page 43

ARTS

Happy hoofers: The classic Broadway musical *A Chorus Line* kicks into the regions for the first time, in a sizzling new production at the Derby Playhouse. Page 34

Floppy tale: *Beatrice*, the new biographical play at Chichester starring Patricia Routledge as Beatrice Potter, proves to be a triumph of wit over content. Page 34

Pop on Friday: Christy Moore has poured his Irish troubadour soul into a new album in which he finally overcomes his fear of recording in a studio. Plus, Caitlin Moran on the decline of the Stone Roses. Page 35

New albums: Forget Oasis. Suede, the band that Britpop forgot, burst back with an estimable new album. *Coming Up*. Page 36

FEATURES

Images of life: Larry Towell takes pictures of his family, only he does it rather better than the rest of us — in fact he is considered a genius. Page 16

Mary Riddell talks to novelist Sean Thomas, who is frightened of beautiful women and frightened of going back to heroin. Page 17

EDUCATION

Fill the gap: Never have there been so many opportunities to take a year off before university. Page 39

Demolishing sex barriers: The number of female graduates opting for civil engineering has been increasing steadily. Page 39

A-level league tables: Just which is the best school? John O'Leary compares the tables. Page 39

THE PAPERS

The hijacking of a civilian aircraft is always to be severely condemned since it involves danger and a psychological burden for the passengers and crew. But a clear difference should be made between hijacking that is committed out of fanaticism and a crime that is motivated by personal fear. — *Berliner Morgenpost*

While we think Mr Clinton's fitful, inconsistent leadership is storing up trouble, voters haven't seen much trauma in the past four years. The President gets political credit for adapting to the conservative public mood — *Wall Street Journal*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

STARSVILLE
Kate Muir on why St Tropez is celebrity heaven once more, in the Magazine

TRAVEL
Paradise islands, Paris for parents and autumn breaks, in Weekend

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest report by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	7-21
South East	7-20
South West	7-19
West Midlands	7-18
East Midlands	7-17
North East	7-16
North West	7-15
Yorkshire & the Humber	7-14
East of England	7-13
West of England	7-12
Wales	7-11
Scotland	7-10
Ireland	7-9

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic forecasts, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	7-21
Area 1 (M25)	7-20
Area 2 (M1)	7-19
Area 3 (M4)	7-18
Area 4 (M6)	7-17
Area 5 (M5)	7-16
Area 6 (M3)	7-15
Area 7 (M2)	7-14
Area 8 (M1)	7-13
Area 9 (M4)	7-12
Area 10 (M6)	7-11
Area 11 (M5)	7-10
Area 12 (M3)	7-9
Area 13 (M2)	7-8
Area 14 (M1)	7-7
Area 15 (M4)	7-6
Area 16 (M6)	7-5
Area 17 (M5)	7-4
Area 18 (M3)	7-3
Area 19 (M2)	7-2
Area 20 (M1)	7-1

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Region	Sun sets	Moon sets
London	6:10 am	8:34 pm
Manchester	6:11 am	8:35 pm
Birmingham	6:12 am	8:36 pm
Cardiff	6:13 am	8:37 pm
Edinburgh	6:14 am	8:38 pm
Belfast	6:15 am	8:39 pm

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be with showers spreading east. Dryer and brighter in afternoon. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Rather cool. Max 19C (66F).

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some showers but sunny intervals clearing. Sunny intervals developing. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Rather cool generally.

London, SE & E England, E Anglia: showers in extreme east, then some bright intervals with perhaps a few showers later. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Rather cool. Max 19C (66F).

Central S & N, SW, NW, NE England, E & W Midlands, Channel Isles, S & N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & N Ireland: mainly dry with some sunny spells. Temperatures near normal.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	17	11	63	17	11	63
Manchester	16	10	62	16	10	62
Birmingham	15	9	61	15	9	61
Cardiff	14	8	60	14	8	60
Edinburgh	13	7	59	13	7	59
Belfast	12	6	58	12	6	58
London	17	11	63	17	11	63
Manchester	16	10	62	16	10	62
Birmingham	15	9	61	15	9	61
Cardiff	14	8	60	14	8	60
Edinburgh	13	7	59	13	7	59
Belfast	12	6	58	12	6	58

ABROAD

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	17	11	63	17	11	63
Manchester	16	10	62	16	10	62
Birmingham	15	9	61	15	9	61
Cardiff	14	8	60	14	8	60
Edinburgh	13	7	59	13	7	59
Belfast	12	6	58	12	6	58
London	17	11	63	17	11	63
Manchester	16	10	62	16	10	62
Birmingham	15	9	61	15	9	61
Cardiff	14	8	60	14	8	60
Edinburgh	13	7	59	13	7	59
Belfast	12	6	58	12	6	58

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Joan Collins checks into an Italian palace and wishes she hadn't. *Strange But True?* (ITV, 8.30pm). Review: Lyone Truss thought she knew a royal when she saw one but isn't sure. Page 47

OPINION

Chinese mysteries

Today *The Times* publishes a special magazine to celebrate the opening on September 13 of the British Museum's enthralling new exhibition on *The Mysteries of China*, which this newspaper is proud to be sponsoring. Page 19

Heads and hearts

Now that Tony Blair is back, the political debate looks set to become more serious. The argument is partly about degrees of democracy, but much more about hurt feelings, bewilderment and an unfamiliarity with strong leadership. Page 19

A scurvy trade

The massive fine imposed on Jardine Fleming Asset Management is a public humiliation for the oldest established investment bank in Hong Kong. Page 19

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

The most striking part of Aung San Suu Kyi's work is its generosity — a generosity that takes the form of never demanding recompense, never speaking an unkind word even about those who wish her gone, and never allowing her followers to speak in anger. Page 18

DAVID GOODHART

Blair's advisers seem to be saying: "The political system no longer allows for a rational discussion of policy." Page 18

JAMES BONE

It is Britain's fate to be a fashion accessory as America turns "retro". Britpop bands such as Oasis, now on its seventh American tour of the past three years, deliberately evoke the heyday of the John, Paul, George and Ringo. The velvet hip-huggers and satin shirts of the maby Street are back. Page 18

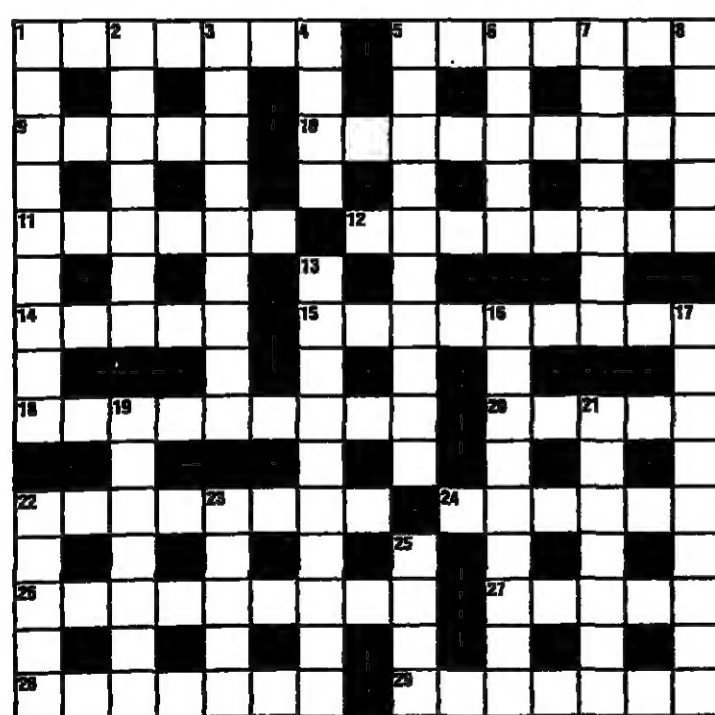
OBITUARIES

Dr Eric Heaton, Dean of Christchurch, Abingdon, Games, designer, Sylvia Fisher, soprano. Page 21

LETTERS

Identity cards; child abuse law; Chris Lewis; Clovis; butterflies; league tables; drama. Page 15

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,260



- ACROSS
- 1 Quickly assemble for practice (5).
 - 5 Lines up charter business in advance (7).
 - 9 Public upset when urn is disposed of (5).
 - 10 Policeman makes criminal secure (9).
 - 11 Smack with hesitation on face (6).
 - 12 One of four rulers starts to totally eclipse the remaining 3 (8).
 - 14 Permit a front page to show animals (5).
 - 15 Without check, I'd blunder somehow (9).
 - 18 TV character not half bright enough, unfortunately (9).
 - 20 Pressure falling to open lock (5).
 - 22 Lower classes want music with upper-class beat (8).
 - 24 See the writer, given honour by sovereign, strut (8).
- DOWN
- 2 Alaskan old-timer makes off with money (9).
 - 27 Feast with mouth open (5).
 - 28 Happy medium — nothing lost by worker (7).
 - 29 When neither side wins in king case (7).
 - 1 Cheap to demolish (5-4).
 - 2 Told to do a supervisory job abroad (7).
 - 3 Playful friends embrace game half-heartedly (9).
 - 4 By the sound of it, full of understanding (4).
 - 5 Scene of historic murder revealed by a current review (10).
 - 6 It's up to theory, oddly, to state absolute (5).
 - 7 Generous with money after one's left African country (7).
 - 8 Where drivers go on Thursday in force (5).
 - 13 Not worth considering without trial (3,2,5).
 - 16 Awkwardly placed, like Sidney Carton, finally (2,3,4).
 - 17 Fiddle is tried on to confuse (9).
 - 19 Confiscate £1,000,000 (7).
 - 21 Career English doctor is first to take up (7).
 - 22 Problem concerning bribe coming up (5).
 - 23 Woman worked as daily (5).
 - 25 Mum goes to work in store (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 45

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Total number of lives saved so far this year: 437
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 2,383
Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000
Cost to taxpayer: £0
To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210

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Cherbury Wiltshire SN14 6JF

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